

C|N|G

Classical Numismatic Group, Inc.



The Classical Numismatic Review

Incorporating the Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin

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**LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA
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The Classical Numismatic Review

Volume XXII, 1

To our old and new customers alike, welcome to the world of Classical Numismatic Group and her affiliated company Seaby Coins. Our operations are under the management of our two senior directors: Victor England manages the Pennsylvania office while Eric McFadden brings direction to the London office. As this issue of the *Review* is being distributed to our active mailing list as well as our new customers, we would like to take this opportunity to give you, our readers, a little background about ourselves.

For the past twenty-two years we have been quietly building a full-service numismatic company dedicated to serving the needs of our customers in the fields of ancient, world and British numismatics. When you become a customer of our firm, we hope that it is for the long term. The passion behind collecting coins manifests itself over many years. We are here to help you build your collection at reasonable prices, to offer the books and supplies that help increase your knowledge and understanding of the field, and to help you sell either individual pieces that no longer fit your collecting patterns, or when the time comes, to help you sell your entire collection.

For those of you who have never had the opportunity to visit us in Lancaster, Pennsylvania let us tell you a little about our operation here. The home of *Classical Numismatic Group* is a one-time farmhouse, built in the mid 1850's. During its 140 years, this rambling three story structure served first as a private residence and later as an antique gallery. Now, we have every bit of space filled with our offices, library, new and used book inventory, and shipping department. We still have room for expansion, though, in the original brick barn behind the house.

Our numismatic staff includes six specialists (Kerry, Peter, Barry, John, Eric and Victor) who have over 150 years of combined numismatic experience. Accounting, mailing and general operations in Lancaster are handled by Cathy, Karen, Carol, and Dawn. If you are ever in the area, please give us a call and come by for a visit. In any given month, we see numerous customers and dealers who are visiting or happen to find themselves in the area. From Lancaster we research and produce all of the company catalogues. With four auctions and three *Reviews* a year, it seems we are constantly in production for one project or another.

Assisting our operations in California is Dr. Larry Adams. Larry, an active collector for over thirty years, joined us in 1995 as our west coast representative.

Several years ago, we had the opportunity to take over the operations of the coin department of B.A. Seaby Ltd in London. From this opportunity emerged our London operation under the name of *Seaby Coins*. The London office is under the direction and numismatic guidance of Eric, who acts as our regular representative and buyer in the European marketplace. Eric is aided by Johanna and Tina in keeping order in the day to day operations. From our office on Old Bond Street, we have a window on the world. London is a favorite destination of many of our customers wherever they might be based. In any given week it is not unusual for us to see customers from as far away as Australia, America, the Orient and the Continent.

Again, let us extend warm greetings to all of you. We hope you are able to find the time to enjoy this issue of the *Review*. Classical numismatics, by its nature, is a specialized field that sets us apart from the rush and pressures of day-to-day life. We invite you to take the time to learn and study about our numismatic heritage.

TERMS OF SALE

1. **General Information.** *The Classical Numismatic Review* is distributed simultaneously from the Pennsylvania and London offices. The point of sale for all items is Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Orders may be placed with either the Pennsylvania or the London office. However, orders received in London are relayed via fax to the Pennsylvania office for confirmation based upon availability. All items are sent from Pennsylvania. A phone call helps reserve your order. Alternate choices are appreciated and are only used when necessary.
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9. **London Book Sales.** A selection of our most popular titles is available for inspection and purchase at our London gallery: Seaby Coins, 14 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3DB, telephone (0171) 495-1888. However, all London purchases must be collected in person. No orders will be sent out from London.

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Inside This Issue of The Classical Numismatic Review

Introduction	1
Terms of Sale	2
Ordering Information	2
Subscription Information	2
Table of Contents	3
CNG Staff	3
1997 Auction and Show Schedule	4
Selling Your Coins Through Auction	5
At Auction CNG Gets Results	6
Auction Representation	8
Receiving CNG Publications	8
Editorial	9

Selections From Our Inventory:

Greek Gold and Electrum	10
Roman Imperial Gold	16
EID-MAR	26
Roman Imperial - Augustus - Nerva (AR+/Æ)	32
Women of the Caesars in Bronze	32
Visigothic Gold	32
Byzantine Gold	32
World Coins	32
British	32

Special Offerings:

Greek	38
Roman	43
Byzantium	51
World	52
British	56
Antiquity	57

Classical Numismatic Literature

General Titles	58
Greek	58
Roman Republican	61
Roman Imperial	61
Roman Provincial	62
Byzantine	63
British & Commonwealth	63
Medieval & World	64
Auction 43, September Mail Bid Sale	65

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1997-1998 Auction Schedule

September 24, 1997	CNG 43
Fall Mail Bid Sale	
Consignment Deadline: Closed	
December 2-3, 1997	CNG 44
New York International Public Sale	
Consignment Deadline: August 22, 1997	
March 18th, 1998	CNG 45
Spring Mail Bid Sale	
Consignment Deadline: December 12, 1997	
May 28-29th, 1998	CNG 46
Spring New York International Public Sale	
Consignment Deadline: March 1, 1998	

1997-1998 Show Schedule

July 24-27, 1997 • Coliseum Show - New York, NY

July 29th - August 3, 1997 • ANA Convention, New York, NY

August 29-31 St, 1997 • Boston International

September 6, 1997 • Cumberland, London, England

September 18-20, 1997 • San Francisco International

October 8-10, 1997 • COINEX, London, England

November 30 - December 7th • CNG 44 & New York International

February 7, 1998 • Cumberland, London, England

March 13-15, 1998 • Chicago International Coin Fair

May 28-31, 1998 • CNG 46 & New York International

Selling Your Coins Through Auction

Are you thinking of selling part or all of your collection? If so, then we would like to help you! Over the last nine years we have established a reputation of being one of the leading auction houses in the world for ancient, medieval and modern world coinage. We have worked hard to earn this reputation by representing both sellers and buyers with total honesty, integrity and confidentiality.

Whether you have one coin or 1,000 coins that you want to sell, we can help you achieve the maximum market price for your coins. All you have to do is give either of our offices a quick call and we can discuss your needs and tailor an auction plan (or an outright purchase if necessary) that will help you with the orderly and efficient disposal of your coin collection via one of our fully-illustrated catalogues.

We hold four auctions per year and have done so on a consistent basis since 1989. We have two mail bid sales each year, one in March and the other in September, and we have two public auctions each year in conjunction with the New York International Numismatic Conventions (May and December), the leading ancient and world coinage conventions in the world. You can rest assured that if we tell you that we are having a March mail bid sale or a public auction in conjunction with the December New York International Numismatic Convention, then the sale will take place on a timely basis, not delayed by one excuse or another!

The combined mailing list of Classical Numismatic Group and its subsidiary, Seaby Coins, is one of the strongest collector-based mailing lists in the world (over fifteen thousand names strong). We mail our fully-illustrated catalogues to over four thousand active collectors in over thirty countries, and our typical sale receives over one thousand bid sheets (an industry high 25% return rate on catalogues mailed)! This means that the highest possible number of collectors will see your coins and have the opportunity to bid on them. And these collectors specialize in ancient and world coins assuring that your collection is exposed to the proper audience.

We offer competitive commission rates to the seller, a 10% buyer's fee, prompt settlement terms, complete insurance coverage on your collection once it is in our possession and some of the best researched and illustrated sale catalogues in the business. And we specialize in specialized collections!

We are just as adept at selling your one hundred dollar Roman denarius as your twenty thousand dollar gold aureus. In fact we are one of the few auction houses to consistently feature coins in the \$100 to \$500 range in our catalogues. Many other firms simply just place them in bulk lots and hope that dealers buy them on the floor to avoid any returns. Our goal is to help you realize the most for your coins and we do so by individually lotting as many of them as possible. This also pleases our collectors as it gives them the opportunity to buy the individual coin that they have been searching for and not a quantity of coins, most of which they will have to sell themselves.

If you have been seriously considering selling any or all of your collection, then please call us or write to us so that we can start discussing the proper sale and presentation of your important collection through a CNG auction venue!

At Auction, CNG get Results.
A few Highlights from our March 1997 Auction



507. **CRETE, Lyttos.** Circa 320-270 BC. AR Drachm (5.28 gm). Eagle flying left / ΛΥΤΤΙΟΝ, boars's head right within beaded square. Svoronos 19 (pl.XXI, 13 - this coin). Toned, good VF. Rare.

Ex Floyd E. Wolfsen Collection (Superior Galleries, 9-12 June 1975), lot 58.

Estimated at \$850. Realized \$1292.

1406. **IONIA, Ephesos. Statilia Messalina, third wife of Nero.** 66-68 AD. Æ 19mm (5.53 gm). [] ΜΕΣΣΑΛΙΝΑΝ, draped bust of Messalina right / Roma standing right, holding sceptre and cult statue of Artemis. RPC 2632. Good VF green patina. Very Rare.

Estimated at \$750. Realized \$6050.



1003. **PTOLEMAIC KINGS OF EGYPT. Ptolemy I.** 323-283 BC. AR Attic Tetradrachm (17.09 gm). Circa 314-310 BC. Head of Alexander, wearing elephant headdress / ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, Athena Alkidemos right, with spear and shield; ΔΙ and eagle in field. Svoronos 33; SNG Copenhagen 14. Near EF.

Estimated at \$2000. Realized \$3960.

2107. **TRAJAN DECIUS.** 249-251 AD. AV Aureus (4.58 gm). Laureate and draped bust right / Uberitas standing facing, head left, holding purse and cornucopiae. RIC IV 28; Cohen 104. FDC.

Estimated at \$7500. Realized \$9350.



2173. AURELIAN. 270-275 AD. Antoninianus (4.43 gm). Siscia Mint. Struck 272 AD. IMP AVRELIANVS AVG, radiate bust left wearing consular robes; holding globe in right hand, eagle-tipped sceptre in right / CONCORDIA MILITVM, Aurelian standing right, clasping hands with Concordia, who stands left; S*. RIC V 218 var.; Göbl 213b.3, pl.95 (this coin). EF, slightly grainy surfaces. Extremely Rare!

Estimated at \$750. Realized \$1457.



2898. Mercia. Ceolwulf. 821-823. AR Penny (1.45 gm). +CEOLVVL•F REX M, crude bust right / •R.:I• •HEL.: •Δ↓ across field divided by crooked lines. Seaby 921. Good VF, flan flaw on edge. *Ex Linzalone Collection (Stack's, December 1994), lot 2336 (realized \$2310); Lockett (1960), lot 3594; Mann (1917), lot 137; Murchison; Bascom (1914), lot 6; Boyne (1896), lot 102.*

Estimated at \$1500. Realized \$2640.



2790. MONGOLS. Genghiz Khan. AH 618 (1221/1222 AD). AV Dinar (7.40 gm). Ghazna mint. "The Khan of Khans, The Just, The Most Mighty, Genghiz Khan." Cf. Album 1964. VF, crude strike. Extremely Rare!

Estimated at \$1500. Realized \$2750.



2917. Matilda, Empress. 1139-1148. AR Penny (0.84 gm). Cardiff mint. MATILDIS:IMPER, crowned bust right holding sceptre / (+BRIC)MER:CA(IERDI), cross moline. Seaby 1326; Boon 9 (same dies). Good VF, flan chipped with loose fragments. *Ex Spink NumCirc 7/92, 4180.*

Estimated at \$1500. Realized \$5060.

**To get top dollar for your coins, consign today.
Space is limited.**

Coins (and Books) Wanted!

If you have coins to sell, either a few pieces or an entire collection, we want to buy. As one of the largest dealers in Ancient, Medieval and British coins, we must buy constantly to supply our customers. We need your coins, and we will pay top prices for them.

If you prefer to sell at auction, we also offer you the alternative of consigning to one of our frequent sales. Our carefully researched and illustrated catalogues are distributed to thousands of active buyers throughout the world, assuring you that your coins will receive wide exposure and competitive bidding. Our commission rates are reasonable, our settlements prompt, and you will find our staff a delight to deal with by phone, mail, or in person.

If you have considered selling your numismatic library, you will be pleasantly surprised at the prices we can obtain for you. We can either purchase outright or place your books in one of our highly successful auctions of numismatic literature.

We will be pleased to discuss the best method of sale based on your individual needs. If your collection warrants, we will travel to see you. When you are thinking of selling, please contact one of the following:

- In Lancaster, Kerry Wetterstrom
- In London, Eric McFadden

Do You Bid at Auction? Would you like us to represent you?

We attend major auctions of classical coins in the USA and Europe. May we include you among the customers we represent? We offer full service for auction bidders:

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Our charge is a reasonable 5% commission on purchases. Contact Victor England in Lancaster or Eric McFadden in London.

Classical Numismatic Group Publications

Classical Numismatic Group issues a variety of publications each year. The *Classical Numismatic Review*, which you are currently reading, is published three times a year, in January, June and September. The *Review* is packed with club and trade information, articles, book reviews, information about our company, a small selection of highlights from inventory, a full selection of special coin offerings and a complete listing of books and supplies that we offer for sale. This publication is distributed to over 10,000 customers worldwide. In addition to the *Review*, we also publish four Classical Numismatic Group Auctions a year. These sales offer thousands of coins and books for sale at mail and public auction. If you are a serious buyer of Ancient, World or British coins, you should be receiving these catalogues.

If you are only receiving the *Review* and you would also like to receive our auction catalogues, we offer two options. The simplest method is to subscribe. Our subscription rates (\$75/£50 for US, Canada and UK, \$150/£100 for the rest of the world) only offset a portion of our actual postage and printing costs. Subscription information is included on the order form. The second method is just as easy. Spend at least \$300/£200 with us in this issue and we'll send you our full compliment of catalogues for 1997. If you spend \$750/£500 or more with us in 1997, we'll send you our publications at no charge in 1998.

Editorial

In the book department, several new titles are now available. Two of these books are welcome additions to any collector's library. Wayne Sayles, while working on his house in the Ozark mountains and getting ready for his wedding later this summer, has completed his second volume for Krause - **Ancient Coin Collecting II. Numismatic Art of the Greek World**. This handy volume provides the beginning as well as the advanced collector with many useful insights into the world of Greek numismatics. J. D. Bateson, in conjunction with Spink's publishing department, brings us a much needed new work on Scottish coins, **Coinage in Scotland**. While this is not a price guide, it is an excellent overview of Scottish coinage and the history of the period. Both of these new titles are available from the book department. See our complete listing of books starting on page 72.

For the last seven years Peter Lampinen has been one of our dedicated group of fine cataloguers. Each summer we have lost him to his first love - the archaeological excavations at Caesarea in Israel. After many years of patience Peter has now been offered a fully funded position for the cataloguing of the coins found over the last twenty years, and he will be joining the Caesarea project on a full time basis for the foreseeable future. Although this is a loss for us, our congratulations go out to Peter. Down the road we'll probably have to address him as Dr. Lampinen as he will also be working toward his doctorate. For those of you used to reaching Peter at odd hours, you'll need to adjust to our normal office hours of 9-5 Monday through Friday.

Joining our cataloguing crew is Jeff Winter, who will be moving to Lancaster from Washington state. While Jeff's most recent work has been in banking, we are sure his degree in Classics will stand him in good stead when it comes to cataloguing the material that flows through our offices.

In the numismatic market there was a slight let-up this spring in the supply of Greek as fewer better coins seemed to be on offer. The supply of Roman seems to be holding steady - but choice bronzes are in short supply. Choice coins are selling for very strong prices. Does anyone want to sell better hammered British? Now would be a good time, as the supply is short and prices are way up.

The September mail bid sale (CNG 43) is almost ready to go to the printer. This sale will feature some 2500 plus lots. A few slots are still available for choice ancients in our joint December auction with NAC (CNG 44/NAC-CNG 2) at the New York International. If you have material for this sale contact us as soon as possible.

For all our collectors of Roman Republican, an important note. The September and December 1997, as well as the March 1998, auctions will feature an extremely important collection of Roman Republican and Imperatorial. The "Goodman" collection consists of over 2500 coins and is strong in both silver and bronze. The consignor is donating the entire proceeds from the sale of the collection to charity.

Victor England
Eric J. McFadden

Selections From Our Inventory

Greek Gold and Electrum

1. **SICILY, Syracuse.** Circa 405-400 BC. AV 20 Litrae (1.15 gm). ΣΥΠΑ, head of young Herakles left, wearing lion skin / ΣΥ AP, head of Arethusa within circular incuse set in quadripartite incuse square. SNG ANS 350; Bérend pl.8, 1; see C. Boehringer, "Zu Finanzpolitik und Münzprägung des Dionysios von Syrakus", in Essays Thompson, pp. 9-32. EF, sharp strike.

\$2200/£1375

The reverse type of this gold coin is adopted from the earliest silver tetradrachms of Syracuse, struck circa 510 BC. Gold coinage was infrequently issued by the Greek cities of Sicily, and was invariably tied to a specific event in that city's history, usually a crisis requiring a rapid and heavy disbursement of funds. Sicily faced such a crisis in 405 BC, when Carthage began a campaign to expand its sphere of influence over the island. Akragas, Gela and Kamarina all eventually faced Carthaginian occupation, and all these cities struck an emergency coinage in gold prior to falling to Carthage. Dionysos, a Syracusan general, persuaded the people of Syracuse to proclaim him tyrant in the face of the Carthaginian threat and the obvious incompetence of his fellow generals. The new tyrant fought the Carthaginians to a standstill (assisted to a large extent by a plague that broke out in the Carthaginian army), and would go on to rule Syracuse and much of Greek Sicily for the next forty years. This gold coin was part of the funds used to finance Syracuse's military operations in this troubled time.

2. **Syracuse. Agathokles.** 317-289 BC. EL 12 1/2 Litrae (1.87 gm). Circa 310-305 BC. Laureate head of Apollo / ΣΥΡΑΚ ΟΣΙΩΝ (starting at 2:00), lyre. Jenkins group A; SNG ANS 618. Good VF.

\$975/£600

3. **Syracuse. Hiketas.** 287-278 BC. AV Hemistater (Dekadrachm) (4.31 gm). ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ, wreathed head of Persephone left; long torch behind / ΕΠΙ IKETA, Nike driving biga right; annulet (moon?, ring?) above, Θ below. T. V Buttrey, "The Morgantina Gold Hoard and the Coinage of Hicetas", NumChron 1973, 3-D; SNG ANS 776. EF.

\$3200/£2000

The circumstances of Hiketas' rise to tyranny after the disorder following the death of Agathokles is unknown. It is known he began a campaign to re-assert Syracusan hegemony over eastern Sicily, beginning with the defeat of Plinias, tyrant of Gela. Hiketas' plans came crashing down in 279-278 BC, when his army was overwhelmed by the Carthaginians at the Terias. Hiketas disappears from history, and the besieged Syracusans appealed to Pyrrhos of Epeiros to come to their aid.

4. **Hiketas.** 287-278 BC. AV Hemistater (Dekadrachm) (4.22 gm). ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ, wreathed head of Persephone left; cornucopiae behind / ΕΠΙ IKETA, Nike driving biga right; torch above, Σ (over H) below. T. V Buttrey, "The Morgantina Gold Hoard and the Coinage of Hicetas", NumChron 1973, 4-M. Near EF.

\$2600/£1600

5. **MACEDON. Uncertain mint.** Before 600 BC. EL 1/12 Stater (1.37 gm). Raised "swastika" pattern / Incuse punch. Cf. Rosen 365 (1/24 stater). Good VF.

\$475/£300

Although traditionally assigned to the region of Ionia, these primitive issues have been attributed on the basis of site finds to Macedonia or Thrace. See Svoronos, *L'Hellénisme Primitif de la Macédoine*, pl.XVI, 13 and recent research by Kevin Cheek.



1



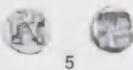
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6. **MACEDON, Kings of. Philip II.** 359-336 BC. AV 1/8 Stater (1.05 gm). Pella mint. Circa 345-328 BC. Head of Herakles wearing lion skin / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ, kantharos. Le Rider pl. 84, 98 (same dies). Fine. \$950/£600

7. **Philip II.** 359-336 BC. AV Stater (8.62 gm). Magnesia mint. Circa 323-317 BC. Laureate head of Apollo / ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΥ, charioteer driving biga right; bee below horses, spearhead in exergue. Thompson, "Posthumous Philip II Staters of Asia Minor", in *Studia Paulo Naster Oblata I*, 4. FDC. \$3750/£2350

The definitive analysis of Philip's gold coinage by Le Rider and Thompson has shown that his staters were produced over the reign of three Macedonian rulers, Philip himself, Alexander III, and Alexander's ineffectual half-brother Philip III Arrhidaeus. While the staters of Philip II and Alexander III were struck at Macedonian mints, and were intended to finance their campaigns of conquest, the later staters of Philip III were more in the nature of propaganda pieces, struck at mints in Asia Minor to bolster his claims to the throne, by supplying funds to his backers that hearkened back to his illustrious ancestors.

8. **MYSIA, Lampsakos.** Circa 412 BC. EL Stater (15.11 gm). Forepart of winged horse left, surrounded by grapevine / Quadripartite incuse square. Baldwin pl.1, 11; Boston 1582. Choice VF. Very Rare. \$8000/£5000

This is the sole electrum issue of Lampsakos of the 5th century BC, all other stater issues being of fine gold. Its anomalous weight standard is known only for Lampsakos, and all known specimens are struck from the same dies, indicating a very limited striking. Earlier opinions placed it at the time of the Athenian Coinage Decree of 449 BC, when all silver coinage of the Delian League was ordered recoined into Athenian owls. This electrum stater would have been intended to evade that rule. However, recent hoard studies have suggested a date later in the 5th century, perhaps at the time of the revolt of Lampsakos against Athens in 412 BC. The winged horse would not represent the Greek Pegasos, but rather a mythical beast in the same category as the winged boars and bears seen on the archaic coinage of Asia Minor, and having an origin in eastern mythology. The use of such a type could be seen as a reaction against the aggressive hellenizing of Athens.

An Unique Chios Fraction

9. **IONIA. Chios.** Circa 550-500 BC. EL Hekte (2.24 gm). Sphinx seated left, vine tendril on top of head / Quadripartite incuse punch. Cf. Baldwin pl.I, 1(stater). VF. Unpublished fractional denomination. \$4750/£3000

Baldwin noted in 1915 that no fractional electrum staters were known from Chios, and that appears to have held true until the discovery of the present piece. The style of the sphinx is proper for the time period, including the small detail of the vine tendril sprouting from its head, and the weight matches the Milesian standard for a hekte, the standard used at Chios.

10. **ASIA MINOR. Uncertain Mint.** Circa 6th Century BC. EL 1/48 Stater (0.27 gm). Milesian standard. Lion head facing / Scorpion, tail to right. Weidauer 166; cf. Rosen 302 (lion's paw obverse). Good VF. Rare. \$395/£245

The scorpion is most often seen as a type on small silver obols of the 6th-5th century BC. Despite being a relatively common find in mixed groups of early coinage of Asia Minor, no one has yet been able to come up with a likely mint place.



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11. **ZEUGITANIA, Carthage.** Circa 350-320 BC. AV 1/10 Stater (0.90 gm). Palm tree / Horsehead right. Jenkins and Lewis Group III, 136ff. Good VF. \$795/£495

Roman Imperial Gold

12. **TIBERIUS.** 14-37 AD. AV Aureus (7.60 gm). TI CAESAR DIVI AVG F AVGVSTVS, laurate head right / PONTIF MAXIM, Livia as Pax seated right holding branch and reversed spear; ornate legs to chair. RIC I 27; BMC 39. Nice VF, attractive portrait. \$2200/£1375

13. **NERO.** 54-68 AD. AV Aureus (7.64 gm). Struck 61-62 AD. NERO CAESAR AVG IMP, bare head right / PONTIF MAX TR P V PP, EX SC in oak wreath. RIC I 16; BMC 17. Good VF, underlying luster. \$3300/£2000

An idealised youthful portrait of the emperor, struck at a time when it appeared that his reign would be a period of just and wise rule, guided by the ideals of good government propounded by Seneca and Burrus. Nero, however, had already begun to show his baser interests, in athletic games and ludicrous artistic endeavors. After the murder of his mother Agrippina in 59 AD, and the death of Burrus and the retirement of Seneca in 62, all restraints on the emperor's behavior were removed, and his later portraits display in frightful realism the results of a life of debauchery.

14. **NERO.** 54-68 AD. AV Aureus (7.69 gm). Struck 61-62 AD. NERO CAESAR AVG IMP, bare head right / PONTIF MAX TR P VIII COS IIII PP EX SC, Ceres standing left, holding grain ears in outstretched hand and long torch. RIC I 29; BMC 31. VF, reddish tone in the devices.

\$2200/£1375

15. **TITUS, as Caesar.** 75 AD. AV Aureus(7.33 gm). T CAESAR IMP VESPASIAN, laureate head / COS IIII, bull butting right. RIC II 181; BMC 171. EF. \$3750/£2350

16. **DOMITIAN.** 81-96 AD. AV Aureus (7.65 gm). Struck 92-94 AD. DOMITIANVS AVGVSTVS, laureate head right / GERMANICVS COS XVI, mourning Germania seated right, half draped, a broken spear below her; dot in left field. RIC II 184; BMC 211. Nice EF. Fine style portrait. \$7950/£4950

Domitian did not achieve the fame in warfare that his father and brother had, but compensated for this lack by trumpeting his own minor achievements in Germany, striking a proliferation of coinage with his title Germanicus, in quantities that rivaled the Judaea Capta coinage of Vespasian and Titus. His victories depended much on the skill of great generals such as Agricola, but Domitian's suspicious nature often led to their recall as soon as they became too successful. As an increasing number of generals, senators and consuls fell to treason trials, it became clear that Domitian would have to be eliminated. The emperor was strangled by a hired slave in 96 AD.



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17. SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS. 193-211 AD. AV Aureus (7.26 gm). Struck 193-194 AD. IMP CAE L SEP SEV PERT AVG, laureate head right / VIRT AVG TR P COS, Virtus standing left, holding Victory and spear. RIC IV 24; Hill 46. EF. \$5750/£3600

At the time this aureus was struck, the Roman Empire was the object of a three way tug of war between contending emperors. Clodius Albinus, governor of Britain, had the support of most of the western legions and a significant faction of the Senate. Pescennius Niger, governor of Syria, controlled the nine legions of the east. Septimius Severus held the loyalty of the Danubian legions, and proved the more accomplished chess player. Severus moved quickly on Rome after the death of the despised Didius Julianus, securing the city before Albinus' supporters could organize. He then offered Albinus the Caesarship, and in 193-194 a parallel series of gold aurei was struck for Severus and Albinus at Rome. Most authors, ancient and modern, are in agreement that it was foolish of Albinus to agree to this arrangement, which only neutralized his forces until Niger was destroyed in 195 and Severus could turn on his erstwhile ally and eliminate him.

18. CARACALLA. 198-217 AD. AV Aureus (6.92 gm). Struck 213 AD. ANTONINVS PIVS AVG BRIT, laureate head right / SECVRITATI PERPETVAE, Securitas seated right, holding sceptre, at her feet a garlanded altar. RIC IV 229a; Hill 1333. EF, nice lustrous surfaces. Rare. An outstanding portrait from Caracalla's middle years. \$12000/£7500

The people of Rome would certainly applaud this coin's proclamation of the arrival of "Everlasting Peace and Security", following at the heels of the time of terror, when the conflict between the imperial brothers, Caracalla and Geta, had finally come to a head the previous year, with the murder of the younger Geta and the bloody purge of his supporters. Caracalla's paranoid and jealous nature would probably not have allowed any greatly extended time of peace, although Rome was admittedly showing signs of prosperity under his rule, with the construction of vast public works, such as the Antonine Baths, the largest in Rome. Rome would be spared the personal attention of the increasingly demented emperor, only because he initiated new campaigns against the Germans and the Persians, to which he devoted most of his efforts for the remainder of his reign.

19. MAXIMIANUS. 286-310 AD. AV Aureus (5.21 gm). Struck at Rome, 287 AD. MAXIMIANVS AVGSTVS, laureate, draped and cuirassed bust right / HERCVLI VICTORI, Hercules seated on rock, his arms crossed, holding a club and a lion skin draped over his leg, his quiver and bow at his side; PR. Depeyrot 5B/5 (same dies). Superb EF. \$12000/£7500

Hercules was the presiding deity of the house of Maximianus, just as Jupiter protected that of Diocletian. An extensive series of aurei was struck for Maximianus at the beginning of his reign, showing the many labors of Hercules as well as him resting in between his labors.

20. VALENTINIAN III. 425-455 AD. AV Solidus (4.41 gm). Struck at Ravenna, 426-430 AD. DN VALENTI NIANVS PF AVG, diademed (with rosettes), draped and cuirassed bust right / VICTORI A AVGGG, emperor standing facing, holding long cross and Victory on globe, his foot upon a human-headed serpent; R V/COMOB. RIC X 2010; DOCLR 843. EF. \$975/£600

Valentinian III, son of Constantius III and nephew of the western emperor Honorius, was only four years old when Honorius died, and the Roman throne was usurped by a court official, Johannes. Two years later the young Valentinian and his mother, Galla Placidia, returned to Italy at the head of an army dispatched by Theodosius II to restore the rightful heir. Johannes was hunted down and executed. The first gold issue of Valentinian III introduces the type of the victorious emperor crushing underfoot a human-headed serpent. While it later became a generic victory type, the first issue is certainly intended to represent the emperor destroying his hated enemy, Johannes.



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21. **LEO I.** 457-474 AD. AV Solidus (4.45 gm). Constantinople mint. D N LEO PE RPET AVG, helmeted, diademed and cuirassed three-quarter facing bust, spear over shoulder, shield on arm / VICTORI A AVGGG, Victory standing left holding long cross; * B/CONOB. RIC X 630; DOCLR 517. Near EF, fully struck. \$475/£300

Roman Imperatorial

22. **BRUTUS.** Summer 42 BC. AR Denarius (3.66 gm). Struck at the mint moving with Brutus in northern Greece. L PLAET CEST BRVT IMP, behind and before bare head of Brutus right / EID MAR beneath pileus between two daggers pointing downward. Crawford 508/3; Sydenham 1301; A. H. Cahn, *EIDibus MARTiis*, in QT 18, 1989, pp.211-238, 5a and enlargement 5 (this coin). 56 specimens cited by Cahn, 18 specimens from this obverse die. Of great historical importance. Toned, superb EF. The finest known. SOLD

Ex Gilbert Steinberg Collection, (NAC, 16 November 1994), lot 104; John Work Garrett Collection, (NFA & Bank Leu, 16 May 1984), lot 685; Levis Collection, (Naville XI, 18 June 1925), lot 170; Vierordt Collection, (Schulman, 5 March 1923), lot 504; Imhoof-Blumer Collection, (Hirsch XVIII, May 1907), lot 483; Belfort Collection, (Hoffman, 27 February 1888), lot 86. In the footnotes from the Garrett sale it is noted that: "John Garrett made this EID•MAR denarius his highest priority in the Levis sale, authorizing a bid of up to Sfr. 4,000. He believed it to be the finest known specimen of this historic type."

Roman Imperial, Augustus - Nerva In Silver and Bronze

23. **AUGUSTUS, as Octavian.** Circa 38 BC. Æ Sestertius (22.78 gm). Italian mint. DIVI F, bare head right, star in field / DIVOS IVLIVS within wreath. RPC 621; CNR VI 866. Good VF, olive brown patina. \$1600/£1000

This coin has stubbornly resisted all attempts to attribute it to a specific mint. Arguments based on style and site finds have produced candidates ranging from Lugdunum in Gaul to Puteoli in southern Italy.

24. **AUGUSTUS.** 27 BC-14 AD. AR Denarius (3.84 gm). Struck 29-27 BC. Bare head of Augustus right/ Triumphal arch marked IMP CAESAR, topped by a quadriga. RIC I 267; RSC 123. Good VF, light graffiti behind head. \$800/£500

25. **AUGUSTUS.** 27 BC-14 AD. AR Denarius (4.08 gm). P. Petronius Turpilianus, moneyer. Struck 19 BC. TVRPILIANVS III VIR, FERON below, diademed and draped bust of Feronia right / CAESAR AVGVSTVS. SIGN. RECE., kneeling Parthian presenting Vexillum marked X. RIC I 288 var.; BN 127; RSC 484. Toned, good VF. \$575/£360

This is the only representation of the Sabine goddess Feronia on a coin, inspired by the Sabine origin of the Petronian family. She personified the renewing force of Spring, and shared affinity with the Roman goddess Libertas, especially being associated with the freeing of slaves. In the present context she is celebrating the liberation of the standards of Crassus, returned by the Parthians in this year.



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26. AUGUSTUS. 27 BC-14 AD. AR Denarius (3.87 gm). P. Petronius Turpilianus, moneyer. Struck 19 BC. AVGSTVS CAESAR, bare head of Augustus right / TVRPILIANVS III VIR, Tarpeia half buried by the shields of the Sabines. RIC I 299; RSC 484. Good VF, old collection toning. **\$975/£600**

Another Sabine reference on a coin of Turpilianus. The hardy Sabines vigorously resisted the expansion of Rome, beginning with the mythical foundation of the city and the kidnapping of Sabine women for the Romans. Rome found itself besieged and Tarpeia, perhaps put out by the Roman preference for country women, offered to open a city gate to the Capitoline hill in exchange for what the Sabines wore on their arms. She meant their heavy gold bracelets, but she got their heavy bronze shields. The site of her death, the Tarpeian Rock, became the place of execution for Roman criminals.

27. AUGUSTUS and AGRIPPA. 27 BC-14 AD. AR Denarius (3.83 gm). C. Sulpicius Platorinus, moneyer. 13 BC. CAESAR AVGSTVS, bare head of Augustus right / M AGRIPPA PLATORINVS III VIR, bare head of Agrippa right. RIC I 408; RSC 3. Toned VF, scattered bankers' marks. Very Rare. **\$2400/£1500**

Augustus shared the coinage with his close friend Agrippa in 13-12 BC, making evident his intention to have Agrippa succeed him as emperor. Agrippa's death in the latter year ended that plan, and Augustus would never find another candidate he considered worthy of the office.

28. TIBERIUS, as Caesar. 9-12 AD. Æ Dupondius (12.11 gm). Lugdunum mint. TI CAESAR AVGST F IMPERAT V, laureate head left / ROM ET AVG, the altar at Lugdunum. RIC I 236b (Augustus). Good VF, brown patina. Rare. **\$795/£495**

29. GAIUS CALIGULA. 37-41 AD. Æ As (10.15 gm). Struck 37-38 AD. C CAESAR AVG GERMANICVS PON M TR POT, bare head left / VESTA above, S C across field, Vesta seated left holding patera and sceptre. RIC I 38; BN 54. Good VF, attractive and undisturbed dark green patina. **\$795/£495**

An Interesting Pair of "Damnatio Memoriae" Bronzes of Caligula

30. GAIUS CALIGULA. 37-41 AD. Æ Sestertius (28.37 gm). Struck 39-40 AD. (C)CAESAR DIVI AVG PRO N AVG PM TR P III PP, laureate head left / SPQR PP OB CIVES SERVATOS within oak wreath. RIC I 46; BN 101. Good VF, brown and tan patina. **\$4750/£3000**

31. GAIUS CALIGULA. 37-41 AD. Æ As (12.60 gm). Struck 40-41 AD. (C C)AESAR DIVI AVG PRO N AVG P M TR P IIII PP, bare head left / VESTA above, S C across field, Vesta seated left holding patera and sceptre. RIC I 54; BN 121. VF, dark green patina. **\$795/£495**

The above sestertius and as have been subjected to "damnatio memoriae", wherein the name of the despised emperor Caligula has been ritually stricken from the record. The C of Caius has been obliterated on the coins, as has the first C of Caesar for good measure. This ritual condemnation is often accompanied by a slashing cut across the portrait, but in this case the mutilation was more subtle, probably to prevent people from rejecting a damaged coin.



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32. **CLAUDIUS.** 41-54 AD. Romano-British Issue. Æ As (10.18 gm). TI CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG PM TR P IMP, head left / S C, Minerva striding right. Sutherland, ANSNNM 65, pl.V, 3-6; type of RIC I 100. EF, dark green patina. \$475/£300

The first permanent Roman presence in Britain came with the invasion of that island under Claudius in 43 AD. With Roman legions in occupation, followed by Roman settlers and merchants, the need arose for a steady supply of currency. Since this was not forthcoming from Rome, the Britons made up the shortfall with an ample supply of bronzes of Claudius. These coins make up a significant percentage of coinage in circulation on the island up to the second century.

33. **NERO.** 54-68 AD. AR Denarius (3.36 gm). Struck 65-66 AD. NERO CAESAR AVGVSTVS, laureate head right / SALVS, Salus seated left, holding patera. RIC I 60; RSC 314. Toned, good VF. \$975/£600

An Exceptional Sestertius of Nero.

34. **NERO.** 54-68 AD. Æ Sestertius (27.39 gm). Struck 63 AD. NERO CLAVDIVS CAESAR AVG GERM P M TR P IMP P P, laureate head left / DECVRSIO, Nero on horseback holding couched spear, behind him a running soldier, before him another carrying a vexillum and shield. RIC I 108; BMCRE 155, pl. 48, 3 (same dies); CNR 918 (same dies). EF, splendid deep jade green patina with touches of brick red. Finest style portrait. \$14500/£9000

Nero is shown leading a military procession into the Circus Maximus. This martial representation is a bit of propaganda, probably intended to divert attention from the fact that Nero was the first emperor not to have personally led an army in the field.

35. **GALBA.** 68-69 AD. AR Denarius (3.52 gm). IMP SER GALBA CAESAR AVG PM, laureate head right / SALVS GEN HVMANI, Salus standing left, sacrificing from patera over lighted altar, holding rudder in left hand, right foot on globe. RIC I 232; RSC 240. Good VF, bold portrait of the craggy-faced emperor. \$1200/£750

36. **OTHO.** 69 AD. AR Denarius (3.45 gm). IMP OTHO CAESAR AVG TR P, bare head right / SECVRITAS P R, Securitas standing left, holding wreath and sceptre. RIC I 10; RSC 15. Good VF, underlying luster. \$2200/£1375

Mazzini Denarius of Vespasian

37. **VESPASIAN.** 69-79 AD. AR Denarius (3.57 gm). Struck 69-71 AD. IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG, laureate head right / COS ITER TR POT, Pax standing left, holding branch and caduceus. RIC II 9; RSC94g; Mazzini 94a (this coin). Toned, near EF. \$650/£400



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38 **VESPASIAN**. 69-79 AD. AR Denarius (3.55 gm). Struck 77-78 AD. CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG, laureate head left / IMP XIX, sow and three piglets. RIC II 109; RSC 213. Toned, good VF. \$650/£400

The pig was the sacred animal of Ceres, also sacrificed to Tellus as a symbol of fecundity. A pig was also tied to the mythical foundations of Rome, as Aeneas founded his first colony in Italy at the site where he found a white sow suckling thirty piglets. The pastoral scene on this denarius and another with a goatherd milking his goat symbolize the ten years of peace and prosperity that the Italian peninsula has enjoyed under the benevolent reign of Vespasian.

39. **TITUS**. 79-81 AD. AR Denarius (3.53 gm). Struck 80 AD. IMP TITVS CAES VESPASIAN AVG P M, laureate head right / TR P IX IMP XV COS VIII P P, dolphin coiled around anchor. RIC II 26a; RSC 309. Superb EF, fully lustrous fields. \$1600/£1000

40. **NERVA**. 96-98 AD. AR Denarius (3.58 gm). Struck 97 AD. IMP NERVA CAES AVG PM TR P COS III PP, laureate head right / FORTVNA AVGVSTI, Fortuna standing left, holding rudder and cornucopiae. RIC II 16; RSC 66. EF, attractive old collection toning. \$975/£600

Women of the Caesars

41. **SABINA, Wife of Hadrian**. Died 136 AD. Æ Sestertius (29.10 gm). SABINA AVGVSTA HADRIANI AVG PP, draped bust right, hair coiled above high diadem / S C, Ceres seated left on modius, holding grain ears and torch. RIC II 1019 (Hadrian); Banti 28. VF, dark green patina. \$975/£600

Beginning with Nerva, each emperor of the 2nd century would choose his successor on the basis of merit, not dynastic connections. The candidate would then usually be legally adopted by the emperor to seal the connection. This procession of "adoptive emperors" resulted in the longest period of peaceful transitions of power in Roman imperial history. As a further familial bond, the prospective emperor was often given a female relative of the emperor to wife. Sabina, the grand niece of Trajan, was the first of these imperial brides to be depicted on the coinage, after her marriage to Hadrian in 100 AD. Her coinage is relatively scarce, probably struck more to honor Trajan's family than for any affection felt by Hadrian for his wife. The marriage was not a happy one, Sabina being known for her sharp temper and Hadrian for his cold demeanor. (Except in his relationship with the youth Antinous, which must have been a sore point). The marriage was childless, and Sabina died sometime around 136 AD, either by suicide or poison.

42. **FAUSTINA Jr., Wife of Marcus Aurelius**. Died 175 AD. Æ As (15.61 gm). FAVSTINA AVGVSTA, draped bust right / LAETITIA SC, Laetitia standing left, holding sceptre and wreath. RIC III 1658 (Aurelius). Good VF, attractive green patina. \$650/£400

Faustina, the daughter of Antoninus Pius and the elder Faustina, married Marcus Aurelius in 145 AD. Aurelius was devoted to his wife, and the number of coins struck in the name of the empress increased dramatically. Nonetheless, Faustina became involved in a conspiracy to have Avidius Cassius, prefect in Syria, replace her husband as emperor. According to Cassius Dio, this may have been intended to forestall the accession of Commodus, whose true nature was recognized by his mother. Cassius acted prematurely, and was assassinated by a loyal centurion in 175 AD. Faustina died later that year, possibly a suicide. Aurelius would not hear of claims that his wife was involved in the conspiracy, and ordered documents seized from the conspirators burned without being read. An extensive memorial coinage was struck in her name.



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43. **DIVA FAUSTINA Jr., Wife of Marcus Aurelius.** Died 175 AD. Æ Sestertius (19.89 gm). DIVA FAVSTINA PIA, draped bust right / SIDERIBVS RECEPTA SC, Diva Faustina as Diana standing facing left, holding torch, crescent on shoulders. RIC III 1716 (Aurelius); BMCRE 1589; Cohen 216. Near EF, choice, smooth brown surfaces. Scarce type. \$975/£600

44. **JULIA MAMAEA, Mother of Severus Alexander.** Died 235 AD. Æ Sestertius (20.16 gm). IVLIA MAMAEA AVGSTA, draped and diademed bust right / VENVS FELIX, Venus seated, holding sceptre and cupid. RIC IV 701 (Alexander); Cohen 69. Good VF, dark brown patina. \$395/£245

Julia Mamaea was a typical member of the Severan family, valuing family connections, power and wealth above all else. The Severan family connections were especially complex, and court rumors had it that Julia Mamaea was mother of Severus Alexander by Caracalla, her cousin. She shielded her son from the more depraved aspects of the court of her nephew Elagabalus, and when Elagabalus was struck down, Alexander was considered an acceptable choice for emperor. Although the young emperor was held in high regard, Mamaea was the power behind the throne, and her arrogance and cupidity proved the final downfall of the dynasty, as she antagonized both court officials and the military, ending in the revolt that murdered both mother and son.

45. **OTACILIA SEVERA, wife of Philip I.** 244-249 AD. Æ Sestertius (19.20 gm). Struck 244-247 AD. MARCIA OTACIL SEVERA AVG, draped and diademed bust right / PVDICITIA AVG SC, Pudicitia seated left, holding sceptre. RIC IV 209a; Cohen 55. Good VF, reverse slightly double struck, attractive dark green patina. \$395/£245

Visigothic Gold

46. **VISIGOTHS in Spain. Imitating Justin II.** Circa 565-578 AD. AV Tremissis (1.40 gm). IVNIVIIVNVIIT, diademed bust right, wide epaulets on shoulders, cross on breast / IVIIVIIVNVIII, crude Victory right; CONO. Tomasini JII4, 478ff; MEC 203. EF for type. \$800/£500

47. **Suinthila.** 621-631. AV Tremissis (1.50 gm). Emerita mint. +SVINTHILA REX, facing bust / +EMERITA PIVS, facing bust. Miles, HNSM II, 235a. EF. \$475/£300

Byzantine Gold

48. **ANASTASIUS.** 491-518 AD. AV Solidus (4.46 gm). Constantinople. 498-518 AD. DN ANASTA SIVS PP AVG, helmeted and cuirassed bust, with spear and shield / VICTORI A AVGCGG, Victory holding staff with reversed Christogram; * Γ/CONOB. SB 5; DOC I 7c. EF. \$475/£300



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49. HERACLIUS. 610-641 AD. AV Solidus (4.42 gm). Carthage. Indictional Year 3 (629/630 AD). DN ERALO ERLIO PP Γ, crowned facing busts of Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine / VICTORIA ACU, cross on steps; Γ/CONOB. SB 867; DOC II 220. Choice EF, an exceptionally crisp strike for this issue, with two complete portraits. \$800/£500

The mint at Carthage was reopened after the re-conquest of North Africa by Justinian I in 534 AD. It developed its own style of gold coinage which within a few decades was radically different from the output of other Byzantine mints. It dated its coins according to Indictional years, a 15 year fiscal cycle originally used to compute taxes. The diameter of its solidi began to shrink, although the weight remained unchanged and by the reign of Heraclius had become almost globular. This created tremendous problems for the mint engravers, who had to transfer the types of the normal solidus to a flan half that size. As a result, legends became fragmentary and unreadable, and portraits, especially when there are two on the coin as in this case, became unrecognizable. The present specimen is a remarkably sharp and clear example.

50. LEONTIUS. 695-698 AD. AV Solidus (4.47 gm). Constantinople. D LEO N PE AVC, crowned facing bust, wearing loros, holding akakia and globus cruciger / VICTORIA AVSU, cross potent on steps; A/CONOB. SB 1330; DOC II 1a. Superb EF. \$2400/£1500

Ex Hunt Sale II, lot 64.

Leontius, a general of the Hellas theme, expelled the hated Justinian II in 695. Although a famed general, he proved incapable of administering the empire, and was in turn overthrown by Tiberius Apsimar and forced into a monastery. This involuntary ordination did not prevent Justinian from taking his revenge against both usurpers in 705, when Leontius was taken from his monastery and along with Tiberius was subjected to public humiliation and mutilation and then beheaded, striking down both the "Lion" and the "Asp".

51. NICEPHORUS II. 963-969 AD. AV Histamenon (4.42 gm). Constantinople. +IhS XIS REX REGNANTINM, bust of Christ / +ΘΕΟΤΟC' b'ΗΘ' NICHE, dESP, the Virgin and Nicephorus, holding patriarchal cross between them; wedge below M of M Θ. SB 1778; DOC III 4 variety. Choice EF. \$975/£600

52. THEODORA. 1055-1056 AD. AV Histamenon (4.37 gm). Constantinople. IhS XIS REX REGNANTINM, Christ standing on footstool / +ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑ AVTOVSTA, Theodora and Mary standing, holding labarum between them. SB 1837; DOC III 1a. Good VF. \$975/£600

Theodora was the sole surviving member of the Macedonian dynasty founded by Basil I, and ruled as empress in her own right for over a year after the death of Constantine IX. The elderly Theodora ruled with a firm hand, in stark contrast to the weak non-entities that preceded and followed her.

World Coinage

53. AUSTRIA, Holy Roman Empire. Sigismund. 1486. AR Guildiner (31.40 gm). SIGISMVNDVS ARCHIDVX AVSTRIE, Sigismund standing in full armor, holding orb; in field, shield and helmet / Knight on horseback, carrying banner, arms of Austrian provinces. Frey 274; Davenport 8087. Toned, good VF. Very rare, first dated crown. \$8000/£5000



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54. **BOHEMIA. Charles IV.** 1346-1378. AV Florin (3.18 gm). KAROLVS DEI GRACIA, crowned facing bust, holding sceptre and imperial orb / +ROMANORVM ET BOEMIE REX, rampant lion. Fiala 835; Friedberg 3. Near EF. Rare. \$3500/£2200

Charles became king of Germany and Bohemia in 1346 after the death of his father John of Luxembourg at Crecy in that year. In 1355 he was proclaimed emperor at Rome. His long reign is regarded as a golden age of Bohemia's history, with Charles greatly respected by the German princes and the church for his patient diplomatic efforts to settle the continuous territorial disputes between the parties.

55. **CRUSADERS. Antioch. Anonymous.** Circa 1200. Æ Fraction (0.80 gm). City gate, three plants(?) below / AN TIOC HIH in three lines; annulets above and below. Metcalf 463; CCS pg.202, 13B. VF. Very Rare. \$475/£300

56. **Grandmasters of the Order of St. John on Rhodes. Helion de Villeneuve.** 1319-1346. AR Asper (1.97 gm). +FR ELIONVS DEI GRACIA, grandmaster kneeling before cross / + MAR OSPITALIS IRLMI, floreate cross; dot in second quarter. Metcalf 1189. Toned EF.

\$475/£300

57. **CYPRUS. Henry II.** 1285-1324. AR Gros (4.73 gm). hENRI REI DE, king enthroned / +IERVSALEM E D' CHIPR, rampant lion; pellet over tail. Metcalf 670; CCS pg.278, 38. VF. Rare. Ex Slocum collection. \$650/£400

The house of Lusignan purchased the island of Cyprus from the Templars in 1192, and the kings of that family held it, with occasional interruptions, for the next three hundred years, long after the dream of the Crusades had died.

58. **Peter II.** 1369-1382. AR Gros (4.55 gm). +PIERE PAR LA GRAC DIE R, king enthroned; K and shield in fields / +DE IERUSALEM ED CHIPRE, Jerusalem cross. Metcalf, *Silver Coinage of Cyprus*, pl.46, 9; CCS pg.290, 95. Good VF. Ex Slocum collection. \$475/£300

Important Gros of James II of Cyprus.

59. **James II.** 1460-1473. AR Gros Grand (3.87 gm). IACOBO DEI G, king on horseback right / +R IERVS CIPRI ET ARMIA, Jerusalem cross. Metcalf 806; CCS pg.306, 159. EF, on an exceptional flan. Ex Slocum collection. \$3300/£2000

The gros grand of James II is regarded as the most attractive of the coins of the Crusading kingdoms of the east. James seized the island from his half-sister Charlotte and her husband Louis of Savoy with the aid of the Mamluk sultan of Egypt. The type may represent James riding in triumph into the last two strongholds to fall to him, Famagusta and Kyrenia in 1464. The war bankrupted the island, and in 1489, Catherine Cornaro, widow of James and a native of Venice, turned Cyprus over to the Venetians in exchange for a yearly pension.



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60. **FRANCE, Carolingians. Louis the Pious.** 814-840. AR Denier (1.70 gm). Class 2, 819-822. Marseille mint. +HLVDOVVICVS IMP, cross / MASS ILIA. M&G 444; MEC 773. Toned EF. Scarce. \$975/£600

61. **Louis the Pious.** 814-840. AR Denier (1.72 gm). Class 2, 819-822. Venice mint. +HLVDOVVICVS IMP, cross / +VEN ECIAS. M&G 456; MEC 789. Toned EF. Rare. \$795/£495

62. **FRANCE, Crèvecoeur. John of Flanders.** 1311-1325. AR Petit Gros (1.97 gm). +IOhANNES DE FLANDRIA, knight on horseback charging left / +MONETA NOVA CREPI-CORDII +SIGNVM CRVCIS, cross. Boudeau 2075; Poey d'Avant 6924; Roberts 8414. Toned EF. Rare. \$1200/£750

63. **FRANCE, Hainaut. William I.** 1304-1337. AR Petit Gros (2.01 gm). +GVILL COMES hANONIE, knight on horseback charging left / +MONETA NOVA VALENCENENSIS +SIGN-VM CRVCIS, cross. Boudeau 2105; Roberts 8422. Good VF. \$475/£300

64. **FRANCE, Lorraine. Rene I.** 1431-1452. AR Gros (2.16 gm). St. Mihiel mint. RENAT D BAR M P CO, duke standing in full armor, holding sword and shield / +SIT NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTVM MONETA S MICH A, cross. Boudeau 1494; Roberts 9545. Good VF. \$650/£400

65. **GERMANY, Aachen. Louis IV of Bavaria, as King.** 1314-1328. AR Sterling (1.43 gm). Eagle LVDOVICVS ROM REX, crowned facing bust / MONETA AQVENSIS, cross with pellets and eagle in quarters. Mayhew 332. EF. \$395/£250

Louis IV found himself embroiled in one of the most contentious disputes of medieval Europe; the ongoing struggle to determine the division of power between secular rulers and the Catholic church. Louis, duke of Upper Bavaria, was elected king of Germany by the assembled nobles in 1314. Frederick of Austria disputed his election, and Pope John XXII, seeking to weaken the power of the Germans, declared the throne vacant and that he would choose the king. Louis eventually defeated Frederick and then sent troops into Italy. The king was excommunicated by the Pope in 1324, but Louis arrived in Rome early in 1328, whereupon he had himself crowned emperor and turned the tables by declaring John deposed and Nicholas V as pope in his place. The occupation of Italy strained Louis' resources to the limit, and two years later the emperor retreated to Germany, leaving the Anti-pope Nicholas to his fate. Facing increasing pressure from papal allies, Louis was almost at the point of abdicating in 1334 when John died. His successor Benedict XII continued to oppose Louis, but did not actively pursue the conflict. These sterlings, in the name of Louis as King of Rome, were probably struck just prior to Louis' elevation to emperor in 1328.

66. **ITALY, Ancona.** 15th Century. AR Bolognino (0.86 gm). +DE ANCONA, mounted knight galloping right / +PP S Q RIACVS, A with three groups of ./. around. CNIXIII pg.28, 18. EF. \$475/£300



60



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62



63



64



65



66

An Exceptional Offering From Beneventum

Beneventum, to the north-east of Naples, had been an important Roman colony in Republican times, and a central crossroads in the road system covering southern Italy. Its original name, Maleventum, was changed due to its inauspicious nature. It remained an important city through late Roman and Byzantine times, until 571, when a Lombard chief, Zotto, wrested it from Byzantine control and established his own duchy. The duchy of Beneventum eventually controlled most of southern Italy, only Naples and a few areas in the extreme south remaining to the Byzantines. Beneventum's dukes ruled until 1077, but their administration was neither orderly nor tranquil. The succession was influenced by family feuds, internal conspiracies and the demands of foreign powers, the Lombard kings, the Franks, Byzantines and the Papacy. Beneventum's gold coinage was based on Byzantine prototypes, with the ruling duke indicated by initials or monograms in the legends. Grimoald acknowledged Charlemagne as his lord, and the emperor's name appears on his coins, at least until Grimoald felt confident enough to defy him and renounce his vassalage. The gold coins of Beneventum depreciated over time, and by the reign of Sicard, they are really electrum of about 30% gold.

67. ITALY, Beneventum. Romoald II. 706-731. AV Solidus (3.81 gm). DN IUST INI-
ANUS PPc, crowned bust of Justinian II, holding globus cruciger / VICTORIA
AVGVST•CONOB, cross on globe on steps; R in left field. MEC 1087. EF. \$1600/£1000

68. Gregory. 732-739. AV Solidus (4.04 gm). Δ•N L EO PP AGVS, crowned bust of Leo III,
holding globus cruciger / VIVTOR AIVSVS•CONOB, cross on steps; G in left field. MEC 1089.
Good VF. \$1750/£1100

The G might also represent Gottschalk (739-742).

69. Gisulf II. 742-751. AV Tremissis (1.32 gm). First period, 758-765. DN I— •••— VN PP,
crowned bust of Justinian II, holding globus cruciger and akakia / VITIRΔ::ΔGVTI CONOB,
cross potent; A in left field. MEC pg.575; CNI XVIII pg.151, 5. Good VF. Rare. \$975/£600

70. Arichis II. 758-787. AV Solidus (4.06 gm). DN I— •••— INVS PP, crowned bust of
Justinian II, holding globus cruciger / VICTO GVSTO CONOB, cross on globe on steps; ΘΥ
monogram and G in fields. MEC pg.70; CNI XVIII pg.138, 3. EF. Rare. \$1900/£1200

71. Arichis II. 758-787. AV Solidus (3.78 gm). DNS VI — — CTORIA, crowned bust of
Justinian II, holding globus cruciger / VICTIRΔ :: ΔGVSTV I•ONO•B, cross on steps; A in left
field. MEC pg.575; CNI XVIII pg.151, 9. Good VF. Rare. \$1200/£750



67



68



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71

An Inexpensive Coin of Charlemagne

72. **Grimoald III, acknowledging Charlemagne.** 788-806. AV Tremissis (1.26 gm). GRIM— —VAL DVX (monogram), crowned bust of duke, holding globus cruciger / DOMS :: CAR• RX VIC, cross potent with pellets; G R in fields. MEC 1098 variety; CNI XVIII pg.155, 7. Good VF. Rare. \$1200/£750

73. **Sico.** 817-832. AV Solidus (3.50 gm). SICO P— —RINCES, crowned bust of duke, holding globus cruciger; wedge in field / ARCHANGELVS ONO MIHAEL, Michael holding crozier and cross; wedge. MEC 1103 variety; CNI XVIII pg.161, 3. Good VF. \$1750/£1100

74. **Sicard.** 832-839. EL Solidus (3.96 gm). SIC— —ARDV•, crowned bust of duke, holding globus cruciger; wedge in field / VITOR•:: PRINCI CONOB, cross on steps; S I in fields over wedges. MEC 1108; CNI XVIII pg.173, 1. Good VF. \$975/£600

75. **Sicard.** 832-839. EL Solidus (3.98 gm). SIC— —ARDV•, crowned bust of duke, holding globus cruciger; wedge in field / VICTORA:: PRINCI CONOB, cross on steps; S I in fields over wedges. MEC 1108 variety; CNI XVIII pg.173, 6. Choice EF. A very pale gold. \$975/£600

Important Grosso of Frederick II

76. **ITALY, Bergamo. In the Name of Frederick II.** 1236-1285. AR Grosso (2.11 gm). IMPRT FREDERI CVS, Roman style laureate bust right / PGA MVM, city view. CNI IV pg.45, 138; Grierson 240. Good VF. Rare. \$3200/£2000

Although nominally under the rule of the great city of Milan, Bergamo struck coinage in the name of Frederick II of Sicily, Milan's (and the Papacy's) rival for the control of Lombardy. Frederick arrived in northern Italy in 1236, accompanied by a grand procession of Saracen mercenaries, troubadours and courtiers, as well as his menagerie of lions, leopards, apes, camels, an elephant and a giraffe (the first seen in Europe). Despite his glorious entrance, Frederick's arrival brought only destruction to the land, as the armies of the Emperor and the Pope fought back and forth for supremacy. The imperial bust on the grossi of Bergamo, like that on his gold coins of Sicily, proclaimed the secular power of Frederick to be as great as that held by the Roman emperors.

77. **ITALY, Florence.** AR Grosso (2.55 gm). Averardo di Francesco Medici, mintmaster for silver and bullion, 2nd semester 1423. DET TIBI FLOREERE XPS FLORENTIA VERE, lily / SANTVS IOHANNES BATISTA, John the Baptist enthroned. Bernocchi 2392. EF. \$575/£350



72



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76



77

78. **ITALY, Lucca.** In the Name of Otto IV. 13th Century. AR Grosso (1.80 gm). S VVLT' DE VNA, facing bust of saint / +•OTTO REX•, monogram. CNI XI, pg.73, 1; Grierson 244. Toned EF. \$475/£300

79. **ITALY, Perugia.** Civic coinage. 14th-15th Century. AR Grosso (1.63 gm). +S ERCVLANVS♣, cross / +DE PERVIA♣, P. CNI XIV pg.196, 74. Good VF. \$475/£300

80. **ITALY, Piacenza.** Alexander Farnese. Posthumous issue struck under Ranuccio Farnese, 1599. AV 2 Doppie (13.10 gm). ALEX FAR PLAC TE PAR DVX III TE C, bust left / PLANCENTIA FLORET, she-wolf with crowned lilies; P P below. CNI IX pg.618, 50; Friedberg 899. EF. \$4950/£3100

Ranuccio served as regent for his father Alexander, who rarely visited his Italian estates at Parma and Piacenza, being in the continual service of his uncle, Philip II of Spain. He first saw service at the battle of Lepanto in 1571, and after 1577 was on campaign in the rebellious Lowlands. Alexander died in Spanish Flanders in 1592 and only returned to his homeland after death, being buried in Parma. His son continued coining in his name for several years afterward.

81. **ITALY, Sardinia.** Peter III of Aragon. 1336-1387. AR Alfonsino (3.19 gm). +PETRUS ARAGONUM ET SARDINIE REX, arms of Aragon / +FORTITUDO ET LAUS MEA DOMINUS, cross with rosettes. Crusafont 258-B/1. EF. \$795/£495

82. **ITALY, Trieste.** In the Name of Frederick II. 1235-1255. AR Grosso (1.66 gm). +EPS TRIDENTI, bust of bishop St. Giusto left / +IMPERATOR +F. CNI VI pg.215, 1. EF. \$475/£300

Ex Garrett III, lot 913.

83. **ITALY, Venice.** Michele Steno. 1400-1413. AV Ducat (3.56 gm). SIT T XPE DAT'Q TV REGIS ISTE DVCAT, Christ in Glory / MICHAEL STENO DVX S M VENETI, Doge and St. Mark. Papadopoli 1; Scarfea 137. Good VF. \$325/£200

For a Carolingian issue struck at Venice, see lot 61.

84. **LOWLANDS. Flemish imitation of an English Noble of Edward IV.** 16th Century. AV Noble (7.52 gm). King in ship / Ornate cross with radiate rose in center; mm: crown. Seaby 1952. VF. \$975/£600

The English noble achieved a widespread circulation in northern Europe due to its high consistency. As its use spread from Scotland to Russia, "homegrown" imitations began to rise up in its wake. Although most issues were properly identified as to origin, merely keeping the standard types of the noble, a number of direct copies were produced in the Lowlands for use by the trading companies operating there. These can only be distinguished from the originals by a certain crudeness of style and flatness of detail.



78



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84



85. **PORUGAL. João I.** 1385-1433. Billon Real (2.80 gm). Lisbon mint. +ADITORIVM NOSTRVM QVI FE CIT CELVN ET TERANM, crowned initials; L below / +lhNS DEI GRA REX PO ET ALGAR, arms; LB. Vaz J1.19ff. EF.

\$240/£150

86. **SPAIN. Pedro I the Cruel.** 1350-1369. AR Real (3.53 gm). Seville mint. +DOMINVS MICHI ADIVTOR ET EGO DI SPICIAM INIMICOS MEOS, crowned P / +PETRVS REX CASTELLE E LEGIONI, arms of Castile and Leon; S and three annulets around. C&C 1278. EF.

\$475/£300

Elevated to the throne at the age of sixteen, Pedro (Peter) of Castile fell under the influence of a series of powerful women in his life, first his mother, then a succession of mistresses. In his dealings with them, his enemies - the Aragonese, and his allies, he displayed a constant infidelity and brutality that rightfully earned him his nickname. Overthrown in 1366, Pedro sought the aid of the foremost military captain of the age, Edward the Black Prince, who reinstated the king, only to shortly become disgusted with his capricious barbarism. Edward abandoned Pedro to his fate, to be murdered by his subjects in 1369.

87. **SPAIN, Castile and Leon. Enrique III.** 1390-1406. AR Real (3.48 gm). Seville mint. +DOMINVS MICHI ADIVTOR ED EGO D ISPICIAM INIMICOS ME, crowned EN / +ENRICVS DEI GRACIA REX CASTEL, arms of Castile and Leon; S and three stars around. C&C 1442. EF.

\$475/£300

88. **Enrique IV.** 1454-1474. Billon Quartillo (3.60 gm). Seville mint. +ENRICVS QARTVS DEI GRACIA REX, crowned facing bust flanked by floral sprays / +ENRICVS QARTVS DEI GRACIA REX, castle in polylobe; S below. C&C 1569. Good VF on a full flan. Rare this nice.

\$395/£245

Great Britain

89. **William I.** 1066-1087. AR Penny (1.39 gm). Winchester. +PILLELM REX, crowned facing bust / +LIIIFPOLD ON PINC, PAXS around cross. Seaby 1257; cf. BMC 1111. Good VF, slightly weak strike.

\$395/£245

90. **Henry VI.** 1422-1461. AV Noble (6.96 gm). London. Annulet issue. 1422-1427. hENRIC' DI' GRA' REX ANGL' Z FRANC' DN'S hYB', king in ship; annulet by sword arm / lis lh'C AVT' TRANSIENS PER MEDIVM ILLORV' IBAT, ornate cross in polylobe, h in center; annulet in one angle. Seaby 1790; Schneider 280. Choice EF. Exceptional.

\$2400/£1500

91. **Henry VIII.** 1509-1547. AR Groat (2.77 gm). London. Second coinage. 1526-1544. hENRIC? VIII D' GR'AGL' Z FRANC', third stereotyped bust / POSVI DEV' ADIVTORE' MEV, arms over cross, saltires at cross ends, mm: lis. Seaby 2337E. Toned EF.

\$475/£300



85



86



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92. **Edward VI.** 1547-1553. AR Shilling (5.84 gm). Fine silver issue. 1551-1553. EDWARD' VI D'G' AGL' FRA' Z hIB' REX, crowned facing bust, rose and XII in fields / POSVI DEV' ADIVTORE' MEV, arms over cross; mm: tun. Seaby 2482. Toned, near EF. \$635/£395

93. **Elizabeth I.** 1601. AR Crown (29.38 gm). ELIZABETH D'G' ANG' FRA' ET HIBER' REGINA, crowned bust left / POSVI DEV'M ADIVTOREM MEVM, arms over cross; mm: 1. Seaby 2582. Good VF. \$2250/£1400

A Wonderful Pair of Medals of the Brothers' Simon by Stuart.

94. Circa 1750. AR 46x38mm. **Stuart, sculptor.** Uniface cast medals with portrait busts of Abraham Simon and Thomas Simon. Hawkins, MI I pg. 512, 154-155. Toned EF, cast with chased details. \$1125/£700

Ex Farquhar collection, R.M. Foster collection; Trinity Hall.

A pair of mid-18th century medals crafted by Stuart (no first name?) after original portraits of two of the most renowned of 17th century English engravers, the brothers Abraham and Thomas Simon. Abraham excelled at portraits in both wax and metal, although his abrasive personality and growing eccentricities eventually made him unpopular in court. According to one tale, when the Duke of York refused to pay the full price for a wax portrait, Abraham crushed it in front of him. That just wasn't done. Abraham probably fell further from favor after the premature death of his brother, and he died in obscurity in 1692. His younger brother Thomas produced coins and medals for both the Commonwealth and the restored Charles II, although his most famous production was the "Petition Crown" of 1663, created after he had been replaced as chief engraver by Roettiers. Thomas died of plague at the age of 32 in 1665.

95. **William III.** 1695. AR Crown. First bust / Cruciform arms. ANNO REGNI OCTAVO on edge. Seaby 3470; ESC 87. EF, minor haymarking. \$795/£495

Ireland & Scotland

96. **IRELAND. The Great Rebellion.** 1643-1644. AR Shilling (5.47 gm). "Ormonde" issue. In the name of Charles II. Crowned CR (small letters) / XIID. Seaby 6546; D&F 299. Nice Fine. \$265/£165



92



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97. **SCOTLAND. John Balliol.** 1292-1296. AR Penny (1.33 gm). First coinage. Berwick mint. IOhANNES DEI GR, crowned head left with sceptre / +REX SCOTORVM, long cross with mullets; 24 points. Seaby 5065. Toned, near EF. \$595/£375

98. **James II.** 1437-1460. AV Lion (3.55 gm). Struck 1451-1460. +IACOBVS DEI GRA REX SCOTORVM, crowned arms, flanked by crowns / +SALVVM FAC POPVLVM TVVM, St. Andrew on the cross, flanked by lis. Seaby 5220; Burns 1 (fig. 519). Good VF. \$3200/£2000

99. **James VI (I of England).** 1567-1625. AV Unite (9.91 gm). Struck 1609-1625. IACOBVS D G MAG BRIT FRAN & HIB REX, armored bust with sceptre and orb / FACIAM EOS IN GENTEM VNAM, crowned arms. Seaby 5464; Burns 4 (fig. 990). Toned, good VF. \$2200/£1375

100. **James VI (I of England).** 1567-1625. AV Thistle Crown (2.03 gm). Struck 1604-1609. IA D G MAG BR F & H REX, crowned rose / TVEATVR VNITA DEVIS, crowned thistle. Seaby 5471; Burns 2 (fig. 988). VF, slightly wavy flan. \$995/£625

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98



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100



THE CELTS

Some of the more unusual "protocoins" of Europe are the bronze or potin (lead and copper) wheels and rings of the Celts of northern France. A wheel symbol also makes frequent appearances on Celtic coins proper. The wheels seem to be intended as a "part for a whole", representing the chariot of the sun, an object which often occurs in Celtic religious ritual. They come in a surprisingly large variety of types. Robert Victoor, in *Rouelles Celtes & Objets Assimilés*, differentiates nine separate classes with as many as twenty-seven subtypes in each class!



SP2001

Celts. Circa 1st Century BC. Æ or Potin Wheel. Average diameter 17mm. Four-spoked wheel with central axle. Victoor IX-2b. VF for type, crusty patina.

Order as item #(SP 2001) \$45/£28

SICILY - SYRACUSE

A Syracusan bronze from the First Punic War

The following coinage was no doubt produced to be used for the enormous payments made by Syracuse in its support of the Roman war effort in the First Punic War against Carthage. The conflict in Sicily was at a peak in circa 261-241 BC, when in a series of naval and land battles the Romans gradually forced the Carthaginians off the island. Despite the heroic efforts of Hamilcar Barca, commander of the Carthaginian fleet and father of Hannibal, in 241 BC the Romans forced the Carthaginians to negotiate peace terms which included the final evacuation of Sicily.



SP2002



Syracuse. Hieron II. 275-215 BC. Æ 19mm. Head of Poseidon left wearing tainia / IEP-ΩΝΟΣ, ornamented trident between two dolphins. VF, even brown surfaces, slightly granular. GCV I, 1223.

Order as item #(SP 2002)

\$35/£22

We have a sufficient quantity of these available to supply larger numbers. In orders of 10 or more we'll save you \$8/£5 per piece.

Order as item #(SP 2003) \$27/£17 x quantity.

KOSON

The Mysterious Thracian Ally of Brutus

Marcus Junius Brutus and C. Cassius Longinus left for Greece in August of 44 BC, having failed to win popular support at Rome following the assassination of Caesar. In the next two years the tyrannicides collected an immense war chest as they assembled their forces for the contest against Antony and Octavian. The historian Appian (*Bell. Civ. IV. 75*) tells us that L. Brutus struck from the treasures consigned to him by Polemocratia, the widow of the Thracian dynast Sadalas. Although the identity of the "Koson" named on the coins remains uncertain, the coinage in his name must be the coinage of L. Brutus described by Appian. The obverse depicts the great consul L. Junius Brutus, who expelled the Tarquins from Rome in 509 BC, accompanied by two lictors bearing axes. The design is copied from the denarius issued by M. Junius Brutus when he was a moneyer in 54 BC (Crawford 433/1). The reverse, an eagle standing on a sceptre and holding a victory wreath, was evidently a standard type at Rome and occurs on the coinage of Q. Pomponius Rufus (Crawford 398/1). The monogram is to be read as BR or LBR (Brutus or L. Brutus). The designs express Brutus' propaganda in the civil war perfectly: the obverse represents the historic fight against tyranny, and the reverse represents the victorious Roman eagle.



SP2004

Thracian Dynasts. Koson. Circa 44-42 BC. AV Stater (circa 8.41 gm). KOΣΩΝ, Roman consul accompanied by two lictors; BR or LBR monogram to left / Eagle standing left on sceptre, holding wreath. RPC 1701; BMC Thrace pg.208, 2; BMCCR II pg. 474, 48. EF.

Order as item #(SP 2004) \$975/£625

PAEONIA

As the Greek citizen of Greece proper regarded the Macedonian kings as upstart barbarians, the Macedonians themselves faced northern neighbors living on the wilder edges of civilization. The tribes known collectively as the Paeonians were a continual threat to the borders of Macedon. After the death of Perdikkas III in combat with the Illyrians in 359 BC, his brother Philip II faced a serious invasion of his territory led by the powerful Paeonian king Agis. If Agis himself had not died shortly thereafter, the nascent Macedonian empire might have been stillborn amidst the tribal rivalries of northern Greece. As it was, Philip was able to deter Agis' successor Lykkeios with a combination of skillful maneuvering and generous bribes, giving himself the breathing room to prepare Macedon for the conquests ahead.

While the Paeonian kings retained their autonomy until 286 BC, they were never again to be a serious threat to their more powerful neighbors. Although little is known of the inner workings of the Paeonian state, a hint of their warlike nature can be gleaned from their

tetradrachms, with references to heroes vanquishing foes; Lykkeios depicting Herakles strangling the Nemean lion and Patraos showing an armored horseman trampling a hapless warrior underfoot.

Labours of Herakles

The Twelve Labours of Herakles are most often attributed by classical scholars to have been penance and atonement for Herakles' madness by which he killed six of his own children and two of his brothers, mistaking them for his enemies. When Herakles recovered his sanity, he went to Delphi and was told to serve King Eurystheus for twelve years; and to perform whatever Labours might be determined for him. His payment for this was to be rewarded with immortality (by today's standards of morality, it seems contradictory to give Herakles a reward for performing penance!). He was hindered at all times by Hera when trying to complete these labours, but was aided by others in the Greek Pantheon.

The First Labour: The Nemean Lion — The first labour imposed on Herakles by Eurystheus was the conquest of the Nemean lion. This invulnerable beast had a pelt impervious to iron, bronze or stone. After trying various weapons to no avail on the lion, Herakles was able to choke it to death as seen on this coin type. He then managed to skin it with its own claws. Thereafter, the lionskin became his standard raiment.



SP2005

Kings of Paeonia. Lykkeios. 356-335 BC. AR Tetradrachm. Laureate head of Zeus / Herakles strangling the Nemean lion, a bow and quiver on the ground behind him. GCV 1518; SNG ANS 1019. EF.
Order as item #(SP 2005) \$795/£500

ISTROS

The Black Sea Coast
"Heads or Tails"

The intriguing design of these coins catches the attention of beginning numismatists. The twinned heads always spark the question "what do they represent"? They have been thought to represent Castor and Pollux (although they lack the stars and caps that are the attributes of the Dioskouroi), personifications of beginnings and endings, perhaps a god similar to the Roman god Janus (although we do not know of a similar god in northern Greece), or else the river Danube which in antiquity was thought to flow to both the Adriatic and the Black Sea, and was a vital trade route across the region, with Istros at its head. Any other speculations? In any case, many people do not notice an important variety in this series. Sometimes the left head is inverted, and sometimes the right. Any significance to this variation? More speculation is invited. We have both in small quantities.



SP2006

Thrace, Istros on the Black Sea. Circa 4th Century BC. AR Drachm. Facing male heads, tête-bêche, i.e. one inverted / ISTRIH, sea-eagle on dolphin; monograms and letters in fields. GCV 1669; SNG BMC 228ff. VF or better. Order as item #(SP 2006) \$225/£140

ATHENS

Birthplace of Democracy

The centuries long tradition of Athenian owl tetradrachms came to an end in 261 BC, when Athens capitulated to the Macedonian king Antigonos. It was only after 229 BC, when

Roman interference began to loosen Macedonia's control over the rest of Greece, that Athens once again struck limited quantities of silver. Sometime after 196 BC the so-called "New Style" Athenian tetradrachms began production. The basic types were unchanged, the goddess Athena and her owl, but engraved in the more florid hellenistic style; the helmet of Athena adorned with tendrils, pegasi and horseheads, and the owl set atop a Panathenaic amphora within an olive wreath. Contemporary records refer to the coins as "stephanophoroi" or wreath bearers. The reverse is further cluttered with a multiplicity of symbols, the monograms or names of two annual magistrates (and later a third rotating magistrate), an annual symbol, a letter indicating the month of striking, and further letters that may indicate either a workshop in the mint or the source of the silver used for minting.

It would seem that with all this information to be gleaned from each coin that precise dating of this series would be simple, but in fact there are still difficult problems with our understanding of the dating of this series. They continued down to the last decades of the first century BC, when the production of silver at Athens finally dwindled away to oblivion.



SP2007

ATTICA, Athens. Circa 111/110 BC (according to Mørkholm). AR New Style Tetradrachm. Helmeted head of Athena / Owl standing right on amphora; symbol: Artemis with long torch to right, month letter on amphora, letters below, annual magistrates Phanokles and Apollonios, varying third magistrates; all within wreath. Often the name of the third, rotating magistrate is found re-engraved over that of his predecessor. Thompson 697ff; type of GCV 2555-2559. Good VF. Order as item #(SP 2007) \$265/£165

PONTOS

MITHRADATES VI

The Scourge of Rome

This king of Pontos became the most threatening roadblock in the way of Rome's conquest of the east, and one of the most ruthless men known to history. Only eleven when his father died, his mother Laodike pushed him aside to rule as regent in his stead. At the age of eighteen he overthrew his mother, slew his mother's favorite, his younger brother, and married his sister in the manner of an eastern monarch.

Mithradates embarked on a career of conquest, bringing most of the lands around the Black Sea into his domain. His expansionist aims would inevitably bring him into conflict with Rome, and in preparation for the coming war he built up the largest army in Asia, unleashing them in 88 BC in what would be the First Mithradatic War. Defeating the Roman armies set against him, he sought to undermine the Roman power base by ordering the massacre of every Roman citizen in Asia. It is estimated up to 80,000 people perished. The Romans were not intimidated, and when Mithradates crossed over to Greece proper, as "Liberator", the Roman legions under Sulla smashed his army. Mithradates retreated to Pontos, from where he continued to skirmish with the Romans. Mithradates finally died in 63 BC, defeated by Pompey and facing a revolt by his own son Pharnakes. The elderly king tried to commit suicide by taking poison, but he had inured himself to its affects by years of small counterdoses, and finally had to be stabbed by one of his mercenaries.



SP2009

Mithradates VI. 120-63 BC. $\text{\textsterling} 20\text{mm}$ of Amisos. Helmeted head of youthful Ares / Sword in scabbard, crescent and star symbol of the Pontic kings; monograms. GCV 3643. Nice VF or better.

Order as item #(SP 2009)

\$80/£50



SP2010

Mithradates VI. 120-63 BC. $\text{\textsterling} 20\text{mm}$ of Amisos. Laureate head of Zeus / Eagle standing on thunderbolt; monograms. GCV 3644. Nice VF or better.

Order as item #(SP 2010)

\$80/£50

THE KINGDOM OF LYDIA

The Origin of Coinage

Coinage developed not in the great imperial centers of the ancient world, such as Egypt or Mesopotamia, or even Greece and Persia, but in the borderlands between the great states.

The Kingdom of Lydia still holds its position as the likely candidate for the earliest struck coins of standard weight and fineness, stamped with a mark to indicate its place of origin. Since the time of Herodotus, the name associated with this momentous development has been the Lydian king Croesus or Kroisos. Although evidence suggests that coinage of electrum (an alloy of gold and silver) was struck prior to his reign, a true bi-metallic coinage of gold and silver staters seems to have first developed under Croesus. Some scholars have suggested the types, a lion facing a bull, represent the Lydian lion (badge of the family of Croesus) confronting the bull of the Achaemenids. This warlike image can be as obscure as the Greek oracle, who, when asked by Croesus what would



SP2008



Mithradates VI. 120-63 BC. $\text{\textsterling} 24\text{mm}$ of Amisos. Head of Perseus, wearing griffin helmet / Pegasos pausing to drink from the Heliconian spring; monograms. GCV 3639. Nice VF or better.

Order as item #(SP 2008)

\$95/£60

be the result of a Lydian invasion of Persia, replied "the end of a great empire". Croesus did not stop to consider that this empire might be his own.

The Persians who conquered Lydia adopted the Lydian monetary system, and probably struck most of their darics and sigloi in Lydia for use in their empire. The Lydian types were continued by the Persians, their distinctive running king type not being developed until circa 500 BC. The coins offered below represent some of the earliest coins available, from the dawn of coinage history.

Many of the electrum pieces in this group have been countermarked, a procedure that seems to have taken place after these coins had left the boundaries of Lydia. Although relatively common on silver coins, these countermarks are unusual on electrum, and have stirred quite a bit of interest among scholars.



SP2011

Kings of Lydia. Uncertain King before Croesus. Before 561 BC. EL Third Stater. Head of roaring lion right, knob with multiple rays on forehead / Double incuse punch. Weidauer 86-89. VF, with various counterstamps.

Order as item #(SP 2011) \$695/£435



SP2012

Most of the countermarks are unidentifiable geometric symbols, but we can offer a limited number with at least one recognizable type; a recumbent stag. The stag, an attribute of Artemis, is found on the early coins of Ephesos, and these countermarks may have been applied by merchants of that city. Types as above, with multiple countermarks. VF - *only four available*.

Order as item #(SP 2012) \$695/£435



SP2013

Kings of Lydia. Time of Croesus. Circa 561-546 BC. AR Siglos or Half-Stater (average of 5.33 gm). Confronted foreparts of lion and bull / Double incuse punch. GCV 3420, 3423; Rosen 663. VF.

Order as item #(SP 2013)

\$475/£300

LYCIA

Lycia lies in one of the most inhospitable regions in Asia Minor. Rugged mountains crowd a narrow coast, but nonetheless several vital and prosperous cities grew up in the narrow valleys between them. Although forced to submit to the Persians in 545 BC, and greatly influenced by Greek traders, whose coin types they copied, the Lycians retained their own language and alphabet, and their dynasts ruled as autonomous kings. Much of their language and history remains unknown, and often the only information we have of the Lycians is that found on their coins. The Lycian symbol, the triskeles or tetriskeles, may be a solar symbol or else it represents the union of Lycian cities.



SP2014

Lycia. Uncertain Dynast. Circa 500-460 BC. AR Stater (9.87 gm). Flying Pegasus left on round shield / Triskeles. SNG von Aulock 4089. Good VF. Order as item #(SP 2014) \$395/£245



SP2015

Lycia. Uncertain Dynast. Circa 500-460 BC. AR Stater (9.85 gm). Flying Pegasos right on round shield; monogram below / Triskeles; monogram. SNG von Aulock 4090. Good VF.
Order as item # (SP 2015) \$395/£245

SELEUKID KINGS OF SYRIA

The Seleukid Kingdom at its zenith, just after the death of Alexander the Great, comprised almost the whole of Alexander's conquests except Egypt. Eastern portions of the Kingdom were lost in the 3rd century BC when the Baktrian and Parthian Kingdoms achieved their independence. The Seleukid Kingdom's territory was gradually lost over the remaining years. In 190 BC its territory included no more than Syria and the immediate surrounding area. It maintained a precarious existence until 64 BC when it finally succumbed to Pompey the Great.

Antiochos VII — 139-129 BC &
Antiochos VIII — 120-96 BC

With the death of Demetrios I in 150 BC, the disintegrating Seleukid empire entered its final phase. Demetrios was overthrown and murdered by the usurper Alexander I Balas (with the aid of Ptolemy VI of Egypt, who gave him his daughter Cleopatra Thea as wife), and his two sons, the future Demetrios II and Antiochos VII were forced into exile. By 146 Demetrios had gathered his supporters, and when Ptolemy VI of Egypt switched sides, Alexander was finished. Although Ptolemy died at the battle of Oenaparas, Alexander was assassinated, and Demetrios ended up with the kingdom and Cleopatra.

Demetrios had little chance to enjoy his victory, for in 144 a young son of Alexander, Antiochos VI Dionysos, was put forward as the true king by Tryphon, the actual power behind the

throne. Demetrios was captured by Mithradates I of Parthia in 139 while trying to stabilize his eastern frontier before dealing with the usurpers, and the royal mantle (and Cleopatra) was assumed by his younger brother Antiochos VII, who quickly defeated Tryphon.

By now the Parthians had taken most of the eastern provinces of the empire, and Palestine was an independent state under the Hasmonean kings. Antiochos forced Hyrcanus to acknowledge him as overlord (striking bronze coins in his name), and Judaean troops accompanied Antiochos eastward in 130 BC. The Parthians released Demetrios to divide the Seleukids, and the army of Antiochos VII was surrounded and destroyed.

Demetrios once again had Syria and Cleopatra, who by now must have been feeling rather shopworn. She was also a bit put out that Demetrios had taken a Parthian wife during his captivity. In any case, when Demetrios was challenged by Alexander Zebinas in 125, he was assassinated on orders of his wife, who after a short period of sole rule associated her son Antiochos VIII Grypos with her and together with Ptolemy VIII defeated Alexander. Cleopatra had already assassinated her husband and older son, and had no intention of sharing power with the younger. Antiochos and his mother ruled jointly for five years until she grew resentful of his increasing role in governing. Cleopatra attempted to kill him with poisoned wine, but Antiochos, forewarned or just suspicious, forced her to drink it instead.

After disposing of his mother, Antiochos managed a reasonably long and peaceful rule. He maintained good relations with the Romans and largely ignored challenges by the Parthians. Around 114 BC he entered into a long-running battle with his brother Antiochos IX Kyzikenos, which continued until Grypos' death nearly twenty years later. The two brothers exchanged territory and killed each other's wives, but neither ever achieved a complete victory. After Grypos' death at the hands of his war minister in 96 BC, the civil war continued amongst his five sons, leaving the empire devastated.



SP2016

Antiochos VII Sidetes. 139-129 BC. AR Tetradrachm. Diademed head / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ANTIOXOY EYEPTETOY, Athena standing left, holding Nike and spear and shield; monograms in field. Cf. GCV II, 7092. Near EF.

Order as item #(SP 2016) \$295/£185



SP2017



Antiochos VIII Grypos. 120-96 BC. AR Tetradrachm. Diademed head of Antiochos right / ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ANTIOXOY ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ, either side of Zeus Oranos standing left with spear, holding star in outstretched hand; all within wreath. GCV II, 7143ff. Superb EF.

Order as item #(SP 2017) \$395/£245

JUDAEA

Judea was a province of the Persian Empire until 332 BC, when Alexander the Great made himself master of the area. Thereafter, the Jews came under the rule of the Ptolemies of Egypt during the 3rd century BC, and the Seleukids of Syria from 198 BC. Judea achieved a measure of independence under the first rulers of the Hasmonean dynasty. Before the end of the century, the Jews had won full autonomy from their former Greek rulers.

Judea still had a large population of Greeks and hellenized Jews, and Hasmonean coins continued to have bi-lingual legends, in Greek and Hebrew. The small bronze coins of Alexander Jannaeus remained abundant into the 1st century AD, and are often identified as

the "widow's mites" of Mark 12:41-44. Herod the Great, founder of the Herodian Dynasty, came to power in Judaea in 37 BC as a nominee of the Romans.

As the Romans extended their influence in Judaea after the death of Herod in 4 BC and the banishment of his son Herod Archelaus in 6 AD, Judaea was placed under the Roman praefect of Syria who in turn appointed a Roman procurator to oversee Judaea. One of the most infamous of these procurators was Pontius Pilate. The misfortune of overseeing the trial and crucifixion of Christ has earned Pontius Pilate his infamous place in history.

A useful book for your library:

Hendin, David. **Guide to Biblical Coins**, 3rd Edition. Hardcover with dust jacket. 352 pages including 32 plates of photographs. 525 coins (with values), ancient weights, Biblical quotations, drawings, charts, etc. This is the most complete edition yet, using a numbering system that will not conflict with previous editions. For both the beginning and advanced collector. Informative and a must for collectors of biblical and related coinage.

Order as item #(GR 110) \$60.00



SP2018



Judea, Hasmonean Kings. Alexander Jannaeus (Yehonatan). Α Prutah. ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ, anchor / יְהוֹנָתָן - "Yehonatan the King" (the Hebrew legend often fragmentary or missing altogether), star with eight rays. Hendin 469. VF or better, selected for centering and completeness of types.

Order as item #(SP 2018) \$24/£15

Beginner's Special

A copy of Hendin & a Prutah of Alexander Jannaeus. Order both at the same time and save \$14.00.

Order as item #(SP 2019) \$70/£45



SP2020

Judaea. Roman Procurators. Pontius Pilate.
26-36 AD. Æ Prutah. Lituus, inscription around / Year in wreath. GCV II, 5623-5624. Near VF.
Order as item #(SP 2020) \$60/£38



SP2022

Vologases IV. 147-191 AD. AR Drachm. Ecbatana mint. Bust left, wearing tiara with diadem decorated with row of hooks over crest, long square cut beard / Archer seated left, corrupted Greek legend around, the top line replaced with an Aramaic legend, mint mark by feet. Shore 433ff. EF.
Order as item #(SP 2022) \$32/£20



THE PARTHIANS

The long reigns of Vologases III (105-147 AD) and Vologases IV (147-191 AD) demonstrate the weaknesses in our knowledge of the Persian empire. When the Parthians are not being beaten by the Romans, we have almost no sources of history for them! Vologases III ruled part of the empire and Osroes I another, but we know little of their power sharing arrangement until Trajan arrived on the scene in 114 and pushed both of them aside to place Parthamaspates on the throne. After Trajan died his Parthian puppet was left to fend for himself, and the affairs of the Parthian contenders fade from view. Vologases IV appears in 147, but it is unclear whether he is the son of Vologases III or of Mithradates IV, another contender. Vologases IV only makes the history books when he invades Armenia in 162 and is beaten back by Roman armies under Lucius Verus. We hear from Parthia again in 195 when Vologases V backs the wrong contender in the Roman civil war of 193-195 and has to be put in his place by Septimius Severus.



SP2021



Vologases III. 105-147 AD. AR Drachm. Ecbatana mint. Diademed bust left, with long pointed beard / Archer seated left, corrupted Greek legend around, mint mark by feet. Shore 413ff. EF.
Order as item #(SP 2021) \$32/£20

THE SASANIANS

SHAPUR I

241-272 AD

The Roman Emperor made captive

Shapur I was the second king of the Sasanian dynasty that had overthrown the Parthians. He fought a series of successful campaigns against Rome in 241-4 and in the 250s, when he attacked Armenia, then Syria and Mesopotamia. The Roman emperor Valerian, elected by his troops in 253, spent most of his reign fighting to stem the Sasanian attacks on the eastern borders. In his last battle in 260 he was captured by Shapur. Never before had a Roman emperor been captured by a foreign enemy, and all Rome was aghast. The scene of Valerian's submission to Shapur was carved in a huge relief in the rock face at the old religious site of Naqsh-i-Rustam, not far from Persepolis in southwest Persia. There, Shapur, in full regal dress and crown on horseback, is shown receiving the submission of a kneeling Valerian. The captive emperor was subjected to many personal humiliations at the Sasanian court, not least being forced to kneel and act as a footstool or mounting block for Shapur when he mounted his horse. The manner of Valerian's death is unknown, but the gruesome aftermath is well recorded. Shapur had Valerian's body flayed and the skin stuffed with straw. Shapur paraded his trophy as a mark of triumph and presented it as a warning to visiting Roman envoys.

These coins, silver drachms, have an obverse portrait of Shapur with a bunched hair neck-knot and wearing an ornate crown (these crowns are a feature of the Sasanian series). The reverse shows a Zoroastrian fire altar flanked by two attendants. Most coins issued by the Sasanian kings were of good silver, but Shapur was one of the few to strike less pure coins. This is almost certainly due to their being struck from base silver Roman antoniniani, probably taken from the war chest of Valerian that Shapur captured with the emperor in 260.



Shapur I. 241-272 AD. AR Drachm. Crowned bust right / Fire altar flanked by two attendants. Sellwood 12ff. Each is well centered and well struck. VF or better.

Order as item #(SP 2023) \$95/£60

When Vespasian died in 79 AD, he was declared a god and the memorial coinage in his name was the most extensive since Augustus. Of the brief reign of his son Titus, the historian Dio Cassius remarked, "If he had lived for a long time, it might have been seen that he owed his fame to good fortune rather than to merit". Dio was thinking of the end result of his brother Domitian's reign, riven with paranoia and treason trials and ending with the assassination of the emperor and the end of the dynasty.



Vespasian. 69-79 AD. AR Denarius. IMP CAE-SAR VESPASIANVS AVG (or similar), laureate head / Various reverses. Good VF.

Order as item #(SP 2024) \$160/£100



Domitian. 81-96 AD. AR Denarius. Laureate head right / Minerva in various poses. RCV 894ff. Fine to VF.

Order as item #(SP 2025) \$60/£38

COINS OF THE ROMAN WORLD

VESPASIAN

69-79 AD

"Money doesn't smell"

Vespasian was the first emperor to successfully take Rome by force of arms. Although he depended on his armies to keep him in power, Vespasian did not pursue a career of conquest, instead emphasizing the peace he brought to the empire after foreign wars and civil discord. He kept a tight rein on the army while allowing the Senate at least a semblance of authority. A new building program began to change the face of Rome, the most famous example being the Amphitheater, known later as the Colosseum. He also took pains to enforce the collection of taxes, to some annoyance. When his son Titus rebuked him for concerning himself with the fees from the "public conveniences" in Rome, he handed Titus some coins and proclaimed, "Money doesn't smell".

THE ANTONINES

The Silver Age of Rome

The Roman Empire never devised a satisfactory process of succession to the throne. Although several dynasties held power for varying periods (the Julio-Claudians and the Severans, for example), there was never a well defined order of dynastic succession. This state of affairs often led to vicious internecine fighting and plotting, abetted by self-interested political factions and the military.

The most successful resolution to this problem was initiated by the emperor Nerva, who to forestall problems with the army, declared the popular general Trajan his successor and adopted son. The following emperors continued this tradition of declaring a successor (sometimes as a co-emperor) and formally adopting him as heir to the throne. Hadrian was adopted by Trajan, and Antoninus Pius was adopted by Hadrian as his heir in 138 after the premature death of Aelius.

Little happened during Pius' reign owing to the tranquility and prosperity which the Roman world enjoyed under his patient, judicious and impartial rule. His "son", Marcus Aurelius, has often been cited as being the closest to Plato's ideal of a "philosopher king", but his reign was wracked by continual conflict on the borders of the empire, forcing him to devote most of his efforts to holding back the barbarians.

Ironically, the worst "barbarian" Rome had to face was Aurelius' son Commodus. Aurelius had disregarded the tradition of adopting the most suitable candidate for his successor, and named his natural son Caesar. This megalomaniac would overturn everything the Antonines strove to achieve. The age of the Antonines was viewed by later Romans as the Silver Age, the last era of peace before the slow decline of the Empire set in. From several sources for our inventory, we can offer a variety of silver denarii of the Adoptive emperors and their relatives.



SP2027

Hadrian. 117-138 AD. AR Denarius. Laureate or bare-headed bust right / Various reverses. RCV 1076ff. VF.

Order as item #(SP 2027)

\$60/£38



SP2028

Antoninus Pius. 138-161 AD. AR Denarius. Laureate bust right / Various reverses. RCV 1229ff. VF.

Order as item #(SP 2028)

\$60/£38



SP2029

Diva Faustina Sr. , wife of Antoninus Pius. Died 141 AD. AR Denarius. Draped bust right / Various reverses. RCV 1347ff. VF.

Order as item #(SP 2029)

\$60/£38



SP2030

Faustina Jr, daughter of Antoninus, wife of Marcus Aurelius. Died 175 AD. AR Denarius. Draped bust right / Various reverses. RCV 1480ff. VF.

Order as item #(SP 2030)

\$60/£38



SP2026

Trajan. 98-117 AD. AR Denarius. Laureate bust right / Various reverses. RCV 975ff. VF.

Order as item #(SP 2026)

\$60/£38

CARACALLA & GETA

198-217 AD & 198-209 AD

Caracalla was the elder son of Septimius and was raised to the rank of Augustus in 198 AD. After Septimius' death, Caracalla was left as joint Augustus with his younger brother Geta. Caracalla was not given to joint rule and he had his brother Geta, as well as numerous other Romans, murdered. He consolidated his power as sole ruler. His reign was marked by extravagance and cruelty. He was finally murdered by

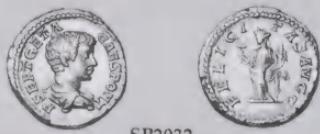


SP2031

the praetorian prefect Macrinus.

Caracalla. 198-217 AD. AR Denarius. Laureate head right / Various reverses. RCV 1915ff. Nice VF. Order as item #(SP 2031) \$45/£28

Although abjured by their dying father to remain united, the two brothers Caracalla and Geta were not destined to rule the empire together. Caracalla proved insanely jealous of his popular younger brother, and Geta outlived his father only a year before being brutally murdered and his supporters massacred. The coins of Geta, like his brother, show a clear age progression from toddler to young man. The following denarii have been selected for choice portraits.



SP2032

Geta, as Caesar. 198-209 AD. AR Denarius. Draped bust of Geta / Various reverse types. RCV 2010ff. Good VF.

Order as item #(SP 2032) \$45/£28

GORDIAN III

238-244 AD

Gordian, the nephew of Gordian II, was raised to the rank of Caesar by Balbinus and Pupienus to placate supporters of the Gordiani. He became Augustus after the Praetorian guards murdered the senatorial co-emperors. As befitting an emperor promoted by the army, most of Gordian's reign was occupied with military operations in Africa, Moesia and especially Persia. Although the campaigns were overall quite successful, and the Sasanian king Shapur I was put to flight, the legions chafed at being led by a youth (Gordian was only 18 when he died) and he fell to a conspiracy of his officers. Having been elevated to the rank of Augustus by the Praetorian guards, it was by the hand of the Praetorian Praefect, Julius Philippus, that he was murdered while on campaign in Mesopotamia.

In 214 AD a new denomination of coin was introduced to supplement the denarius. This new silver coin, called the antoninianus after Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (Caracalla), weighed one and a half times the denarius weight but was valued at two denarii. It is easy to distinguish from the denarius. The emperor is shown with a radiate crown instead of a laurel wreath. By the time of Gordian III it had largely replaced the denarius as the coin of the realm. Inflation in the third century was as great a problem as in the twentieth.



SP2033

Gordian III. 238-244 AD. AR Antoninianus. Rome mint. Radiate bust / Various reverses. RCV 2427ff. All are choice VF, some maybe a little better.

Order as item #(SP 2033) \$32/£20

From a recent group of Antoniniani, we pulled a small number of Antioch mint pieces. These pieces make an interesting stylistic comparison.



Gordian III. 238-244 AD. AR Antoninianus. Antioch mint. Radiate bust / Various reverses. RCV 2427ff. VF, some a little better. Order as item #(SP 2034) \$32/£20

PHILIP I AND HIS FAMILY

PHILIP I
244-249 AD

Philip, born near Bostra in the province of Arabia around 204 AD, became the first emperor of Arab descent upon his removal of Gordian III. His reign was taken up by continuous strife, as the empire fought back incursions along its borders and revolts by usurpers within its borders. The usurpers Pacatian, Jotapian and Silbannacus struck their rare coinage during this tumultuous era. Philip's coinage notes his many military campaigns, but more extensive is the commemorative series marking the millennium of Rome in 248 AD. The constant warfare exhausted both emperor and empire, and when Trajan Decius was hailed as emperor by his Danubian troops in 249, the legions backing Philip collapsed in short order. There were rumors during his lifetime that Philip was a Christian, and thus the first Christian emperor, but this was merely due to his tolerance of the religion, and contrasted with the savage persecutions of Decius which were to follow.



Philip I. 244-249 AD. AR Antoninianus. Radiate bust / Various reverse types. RCV 2550ff. Near EF.

Order as item #(SP 2035)

\$32/£20

Little can be said of the life of Otacilia Severa; even the number of children she had by Philip is uncertain. Early Christian writers regarded her as the true Christian sympathizer in the family of Philip, preserving several of her letters to church fathers such as Origen.



Otacilia Severa. AR Antoninianus. Diademed bust placed on crescent / Various reverse types. RCV 2625ff. Near EF.

Order as item #(SP 2036)

\$32/£20

The following antoniniani of Philip II, Caesar show him as PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS - "Leader of the Youth". The iuventus could be considered a corps of cadets, young men in training for the Equites, or knights of the equestrian military order. The Caesar, as heir apparent, was often depicted as the Princeps, emphasising his military capabilities and acceptance by the army as the eventual Augustus.



Philip II, as Caesar. 244-247 AD. AR Antoninianus. Radiate bust / Philip in military dress, holding globe and spear, sometimes a captive at his feet. RCV 2652-2654. Near EF.

Order as item #(SP 2037)

\$32/£20

TRAJAN DECIUS

249-251 AD

Decius attained senatorial rank early in his career and was governor of Lower Moesia from 234-238 AD. Following the unsuccessful rebellion of Pacatian in Upper Moesia, Philip sent Decius to restore order. The rebellious troops forced Decius to take the purple and lead them against Rome. (Decius would not be the only usurper to claim that he was forced into rebellion against his will.) At the battle of Verona in 249 AD, Philip and his son were slain and Decius was left undisputed master of the Empire.

His reign is perhaps best known for his rigorous persecution of the Christians, under which Pope Fabian and the patriarchs of Antioch and Jerusalem perished. Decius himself died on the Danubian frontier in 251, when a marauding band of Goths, trapped by the Romans, were refused surrender and chose to fight to the death. Their suicidal charge overwhelmed the Romans, and Decius and his son Herennius Etruscus were both killed in the fighting.



SP2038



Trajan Decius. 249-251 AD. AR Antoninianus. Radiate bust right / Various reverses. RCV 2690ff. Near EF.

Order as item #(SP 2038) \$45/£28

THE GALLIC EMPIRE

POSTUMUS

259-268 AD

Postumus proceeded from a different premise than the rest of the usurpers of the 3rd century: instead of seeking to seize the entire empire, he detached a portion of it to rule as a separate fiefdom. Placed in charge of the province of Germany by Gallienus, Postumus turned the legions to his own designs and took Germany,

Gaul, Spain and Britain out of the empire altogether. Although Gallienus repeatedly defeated Postumus in battle, he was never able to overcome him completely, and eventually acquiesced in the formation of a separate Gaulish empire.

Postumus' ambitions seem to have eventually spread to the rest of the empire, if his coin types are taken as evidence, but before he could put them into effect he was distracted by the revolt of Laelianus, where he met his death at the hands of his own soldiers when he forbade them to sack the fallen rebel city. Postumus' separatist empire survived until 274, when Tetricus abdicated to Aurelian.



SP2039

Postumus. 259-268 AD. Antoninianus. Radiate bust right / Various reverses. RCV 3107ff. EF for issue. Choice.

Order as item #(SP 2039) \$45/£28



SP2040

Postumus. 259-268 AD. Antoninianus. Radiate bust right / Various reverse types. RCV 3106-3135. Good VF, high silver content.

Order as item #(SP 2040) \$45/£28

VICTORINUS

268-270 AD

After the death of Postumus, the Gallo-Roman Empire succumbed to the same forces of disintegration that caused the decline of the Empire. His successors were not up to the task of governing the territory. Little is known of Victorinus and his reign was short. It is known that he was a soldier of some ability. He was murdered shortly after winning the siege of Augustodunum, while in Cologne, by one of his own officers.



SP2041



SP2042



Victorinus. 268-270 AD. Antoninianus. Radiate head right / Various reverses. RCV 3162ff. This group is struck on unusually full flans for this period. All have nice surfaces. EF for issue.

Order as item #**(SP 2041)**

\$45/£28

EF for issue.

AURELIAN

270-275 AD

Lucius Domitius Aurelianus, called "Sword in Hand" by the anonymous author of the *Historia Augusta*, was the most able of the "Soldier Emperors" that dominated the 3rd century. In his short five year reign, he handed the enemies of the Roman order an unprecedented series of shattering defeats. Taking up after Claudius Gothicus, Aurelian drove back successive waves of invaders: Goths, Vandals and the Alemanni. He subdued numerous petty usurpers, and put down a bloody revolt by mint workers in Rome, a rebellion prompted by his efforts to reform a corrupt monetary system. Remains of the massive defensive wall he built around the city are still visible today. All this occurred in the first two years of his reign. The second half of his reign saw the collapse of two breakaway provinces, Palmyra in the east and the Gallic Empire in the west, with Zenobia, queen of Palmyra, and Tetricus, emperor of Gaul, participating in a glorious triumph in Rome.

Aurelian's final campaign, to subdue the perpetually troublesome Parthians (and who can imagine the consequences of his inevitable success) was aborted when a cabal of disgruntled officers arranged his assassination. His plans for the renewal of the empire took physical form in his new coinage, the reformed antoninianus, sometimes called the aurelian. On the coins offered here, struck in 274-275, the sun god Sol is seen trampling eastern captives, while the legends ORIENS AVG or SOL INVICTO proclaim Rome's intention to be the sole power in the east.

Aurelian. 270-275 AD. Antoninianus (Aurelian). Various mints. Radiate bust right / The sun god Sol in varying poses with eastern captives. Cf. RCV 3261, 3262, & 3269. Near EF. Order as item #**(SP 2042)**

\$45/£28

SEVERINA

wife of Aurelian.

Little is known of the life of Severina, the wife of Aurelian, but she must have been held in high regard by the emperor, judging by the quantity of coinage in her own name. Some authorities have suggested that coinage continued to be struck in her name after Aurelian's murder, while the Senate was choosing the next emperor. This at least appears to be the case in Alexandria, the only provincial mint still operating.



SP2043



Severina, wife of Aurelian. Antoninianus (Aurelian). Various mints. Diademed bust on crescent / Various reverse types. RCV 3282ff. EF. Scarce.

Order as item #**(SP 2043)**

\$135/£85

The portraits of imperial women have proved a valuable source of information on changing tastes in the Roman court. Whole learned tomes have been compiled detailing the often extravagant flourishes of court dress and hair style. For the fashion historian we can offer two examples of 3rd century imperial hair style. The antoniniani shown above display Severina's normal coif, her hair drawn in a long braided queue that is then brought forward over the top of the head, forming a crest held in

place by the diadem. On the pieces below Severina has a much simpler hairdo, a short beehive coiled around the head. This fashion apparently did not prove popular; less than 10% of Severina's coins show her with this hairstyle.



Severina, wife of Aurelian. Antoninianus (Aurelian). Various mints. Diademed bust on crescent / Various reverse types. RCV 3282ff. EF. Scarce.

Order as item #(SP 2044) \$150/£95

THE IMPERIAL BROTHERS TACITUS AND FLORIAN

After the assassination of Aurelian, there was a six month interregnum, while the army chose to let the Senate elect the next emperor. Their nominee was Tacitus, an elderly senator when he came to the throne, 75 years old, according to some sources. He claimed descent from the historian Tacitus, but this prestigious family tree seems to have been invented for the occasion of his elevation. Despite his age, Tacitus and his half-brother Florian immediately took to the field to repel attacks from German and Gothic tribes. The invasion was put down, but the strain led to the death of the aged emperor.

His brother Florian, having few supporters among either the army or the Senate, would survive him by only a few months, being murdered by his own officers who preferred the experienced general Probus. The joint ten month reign of Tacitus and Florian is notable for being the last time the Roman Senate would have significant input in the selection of the emperor. From this point onward the empire would essentially be ruled as a military dictatorship.



Tacitus. 275-276 AD. Antoninianus. Radiate bust / Various reverse types. RCV 3300ff. EF. Order as item #(SP 2045) \$95/£60



Florian. 276 AD. Antoninianus. Radiate bust / Various reverse types. RCV 3325ff. Near EF. Scarce. Order as item #(SP 2046) \$150/£95

PROBUS 276-282 AD

One of the leading generals in the Roman army, Probus was declared emperor by his troops after the death of Tacitus. His reign was notable for its military successes as well as his success in restoring economic prosperity to the Empire. History gives Probus credit with laying the foundations for many of Europe's great vineyards. Unfortunately, he was murdered by a band of mutinous soldiers who were enraged at having been employed on public works instead of military duties.

The worship of the sun god Sol took on greater importance in the third century, surpassing the veneration of the other gods. Sol had a large number of followers in the army, and as the army's influence over the empire increased, Sol appeared more often on the coins. For a while it even appeared that Sol worship would be a serious competitor with the rising Christian sect. These antoniniani of Probus, carefully selected from a recent purchase, show Sol in his quadriga rising over the heavens and this is one of the more popular representations of the god.



SP2047

Probus. 276-282 AD. Antoninianus. Cyzicus mint. Radiate bust left, draped in consular robes, holding eagle-tipped sceptre/ Sol, head left, holding whip, in facing quadriga; mint-mark CM/XXI, officina letter P, S, T, IV, Q or not present. See RCV 3371; RIC V pt.2, 911. EF. Order as item #(SP 2047) \$65/£40

Lot of three different officina marks from Cyzicus. All EF.

Order as item #(SP 2048) \$160/£100



SP2049

Probus. 276-282 AD. Antoninianus. Serdica mint. Radiate bust left, draped in consular robes, holding eagle-tipped sceptre/ Sol, head left, holding whip, in facing quadriga; mint-mark KAB. See RCV 3371; RIC V pt.2, 861. EF. Order as item #(SP 2049) \$65/£40



SP2050

Probus. 276-282 AD. Antoninianus. Rome mint. Radiate bust left, draped in consular robes, holding eagle-tipped sceptre/ Sol, head facing, holding whip, in facing quadriga; mint-mark R with officina letter, or just the officina letter alone. Scarce variety with facing Sol. See RCV 3371; RIC V pt.2, 204. Near EF. Order as item #(SP 2050) \$95/£60

THE FAMILY OF CARUS

In 282 the praetorian prefect Carus was proclaimed emperor by his legions; there was no pretense of seeking the Senate's approval. For the first time since Valerian, the emperor had grown sons to join him in power, and both Carinus and Numerian were proclaimed in succession Caesars and Augusti. Carus conducted a swift military operation against the Danubian tribes threatening the border, and then set out on his primary objective, the subjugation of the Persians. He took Mesopotamia and the Persian capital Ctesiphon, but as was so often the case with successful emperors, jealousy among the staff officers led to his downfall. He was supposedly struck down by lightning near Ctesiphon, but the "lightning" was directed by Carus' praetorian prefect Arrius Aper, the father-in-law of Numerian.

If Aper thought to control the young emperor, he was apparently mistaken. In any case, when Numerian was found dead in his bed several months later, Aper was accused of the crime and executed by Diocletian. Carinus, the sole surviving member of the dynasty, had little support in the army, and soon found himself put aside (i.e. murdered) by loyalists of the new emperor, Diocletian.



SP2051

Numerian, as Augustus. 283-284. Antoninianus. Various mints. Radiate bust / Various reverse types. EF
Order as item #(SP 2051). \$95/£60

CONSTANTINE I, THE GREAT

307-337 AD

The First Christian Emperor

Constantine I was the son of Constantius I and Helena. When Constantius was raised to the rank of Caesar in 293 AD, his son joined the

court of Diocletian. He was a promising young officer. In 307 AD he married Fausta, the daughter of Maximianus and was raised to the rank of Augustus. During the next six years he consolidated his power, finally becoming sole Augustus in 324 AD after defeating Licinius at the Milvian bridge.

Constantine found that Rome did not play a central part in his ideas for the organization of the Empire. After stays at Trier and several other mint cities in the west and in his native Balkans, he decided that the new center for the Roman Empire should be the ancient city of Byzantium. There he founded between 326 and 330 the city of Constantinopolis (modern Istanbul), which as the Eastern Roman or Byzantine capital continued to dominate the area until its fall to the Turks in 1453.

Constantine fostered a second and even more important revolution. He permitted and encouraged conversion from paganism to Christianity. In 311 AD, along with Galerius and Licinius, he issued the Edict of Serdica which legalized Christianity.

Constantine was a man of deep but impulsive emotions. He was extravagant, capricious and ruthless. His ambition and energy were unbounded. He was a general of the highest order. His two great decisions in life—to found Constantinople and to convert the Roman policy on Christianity—reverberated throughout the centuries. His reign was one of supreme importance to the future of the empire, to the church and to the course of Western civilization.

SP2052



Constantine I, the Great. 307-337 AD. Æ Follis. Various mints. Various busts / Various reverses. RCV 3870ff. We have accumulated a wonderful assortment of folles in EF condition. While our supplies hold, we can offer these at:
Order as item #**(SP 2052)** \$33/£21

CONSTANTINE II

as CAESAR

317-337 AD

The eldest son of Constantine I and Fausta. Upon the death of Constantine in 337, he was given control of the western provinces which included Spain, Gaul and Britain. Early in 340 AD he quarreled with his younger brother Constans and died in an ambush near Aquileia.



SP2053

Constantine II, as Caesar. 317-330 AD. Æ Folli. Various mints. Various busts / Various reverses. RCV 3941ff. An assortment of folles in choice EF condition.

Order as item #**(SP 2053)**

\$33/£21



SP2054

Constantine II, as Caesar. 330-335 AD. Æ Folli. Laureate bust right / Two soldiers standing with spears and shields, flanking two legionary standards; mint mark in exergue. EF.

Order as item #**(SP 2054)**

\$33/£21

COINS OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

Justin II

565-578 AD

After the splendors and accomplishments of the reign of Justinian I, arguably the greatest emperor to follow after Constantine, any succeeding emperor would be held inferior. Unfortunately for the empire, Justin II could not begin to lay claim to his uncle's vigor, intelligence or ruthlessness. His reign was marred by family conflicts, as his cousins sought to undermine his authority and bring him down.

His few attempts at civil legislation were feeble and insignificant, in stark contrast to Justinian's law code. Relations with the border states were no less than disastrous. Justinian's epic reconquest of the west withered under assaults by the Avars, Lombards and Visigoths with little response from Constantinople. Much of the land that Justinian returned to the empire in Spain, Italy and the Balkans was lost, never to be recovered. In the east, Justin foolishly broke a treaty with Khusrus I, the powerful Sasanian ruler of Persia, leading to further loss of territory. Justin, never in the best of health either physically or mentally, deteriorated to the point that his wife Sophia could probably be considered co-ruler of the empire in his place. Sophia urged him to appoint a Caesar to rule, and perhaps not surprisingly, a mere nine days after elevating Tiberius, Justin passed away. In Justin's reign, with its familial discord, courtly intrigue and slowly crumbling borders, we see in microcosm the course of the next eight centuries of Byzantium.



SP2055

Justin II. 565-578 AD. Æ Follis. Enthroned figures of Justin and his wife Sophia / Denomination and regnal year; various mints. SB 360ff. VF.

Order as item #**(SP 2055)**

\$32/£20

Maurice Tiberius

582-602 AD

Maurice Tiberius proved the most competent military leader and administrator the empire had seen since the early years of Justinian I. His greatest accomplishment was in assisting the Sasanian king Khusrus II to regain his throne in 591. The grateful king kept the eastern frontier peaceful as long as Maurice remained on the throne. Sadly, the emperor's rigorous administration did not sit well with the army, and in 602 a rebellion by troops stationed along the Danubian frontier led to Maurice's murder and the rise of the brutal Phocas.

The Danube was not the only locus of discontent. In 588 troops stationed in the vicinity of Antioch in Syria mutinied, spurred by a cut in pay and arrogant, unresponsive general officers. The revolt continued for two years, until a new general sent from Constantinople, Philippicus, was able to restore order. One thing that Philippicus noted was that the quality of the coins struck at Antioch had deteriorated badly over the years. His reforms are clear in the new style Antioch folles of year eight, with their vastly improved portraits and legible inscriptions.



SP2056

Maurice Tiberius. 582-602 AD. Æ Follis. Antioch mint. Crowned facing bust / Denomination, regnal year and mintmark. SB 533. VF or better.

Order as item #**(SP 2056)**

\$45/£28

Constantine IX

1042-1055 AD

Although his family name translates as "fighting in single combat", and his reign was studed with one conflict after another, Constantine IX Monomachos himself was a most unmartial character. There is no record of him leading an army in the field. Instead, he devoted himself to lavish church construction projects, court intrigues, and his mistresses. All this while the Normans seized Byzantine territory in Italy, the Russians sent a fleet down the Black Sea, Turks and Pechenegs ravaged the east, and two usurpers besieged Constantinople itself. In addition, a quarrel between the Roman Pope and the Patriarch of Constantinople in 1054 would begin the breach resulting in the Great Schism, permanently splitting the Christian church into east and west halves. Many later Byzantine writers marked the reign of the irresponsible Constantine IX as the beginning of the long, slow collapse of the empire.

The gold histamenon of Constantine reflects the changing fortunes of the empire. Although his first coinage preserves the tradition of almost pure gold coinage, at other points in his reign the purity falls to around 75%. The histamenon offered below are from early in his reign, and still retain the traditional purity.



SP2057

Constantine IX. 1042-1055 AD. AV Histamenon. Constantinople mint. +IHS XIS REX REGNANTINM, Christ enthroned / +CWNSTANTN BASILEU RM, bust of Constantine holding cruciform sceptre and patriarchal globus. SB 1828; DOC III 1a. Choice EF. Order as item #(SP 2057) \$395/£245

COINS OF THE WORLD

BULGARIA

The Second Bulgarian Empire and Ivan Alexander

By 1018 the Byzantine empire under Basil II Bulgarktonos (Bulgar-Slayer) had absorbed the first Bulgarian state. Slavic national resentment of Greek domination prompted several revolts over the next century, and in 1188 a weakened empire was forced to acknowledge a resurgent independent kingdom under Kalojan. The Bulgarians dominated the Balkans, although continually beset by internal dissent within the Bulgarian nobility and between factions seeking influence with Byzantium, Serbia, Russia or western Europe, mainly Venice.

Bulgaria controlled the overland trade routes between Byzantium and the west, and the primary coinage of this new kingdom, the silver grosh, was directly adopted from the Venetian grosso struck after 1195. The most common type of grosh found is that of Ivan Alexander and Michael Asen (1331-1355), with a figure of Christ on the obverse and standing co-rulers

holding a banner on the reverse. There are innumerable varieties of this coin, showing a steady deterioration in style and weight standard, and the types appear to have continued for quite some time after the death of Michael in 1355, possibly even up to the annexation of Bulgaria by the Ottoman sultan Murad I in 1393. Ivan had named his son, Ivan Sratsimir, Michael's successor, but ill-will between father and son led to Sratsimir's deposition and his replacement by Ivan Shishman. Sratsimir was given the district of Vidin in compensation, whereupon he declared his independence from his father in Turnovo. The split in the imperial family encouraged other restive nobles to carve out their own separate domains, and the fractured Bulgarian state was unable to unite to resist the on-coming Turkish invasion.

Responsibility for this disaster could be indirectly laid on Ivan Alexander. For several years the Byzantine emperor John Cantacuzenus had been blocking the Ottoman expansion into Europe at the Dardanelles, but when the cost of the blockade grew too great, he asked the Bulgarians and Serbians to share the expense. Ivan Alexander rejected his request with contemptuous scorn, and the Serbians followed suit. Supposedly Cantacuzenus reacted by striking a deal with the Turks. The Byzantines would allow the Turkish army to cross into Europe on the condition that they attack Bulgaria and Serbia first! The results were fatal for all the kingdoms of eastern Europe.



SP2058

**Bulgaria. Ivan Alexander and Michael Asen. 1331-1355 and later. AR Grosh. Christ standing; monograms / Ivan and Michael standing, holding banner; Alexander monogram to left, Michael monogram to right. Metcalf, *South-eastern Europe*, pl.8, 11; Grierson 387. VF or better. A few variations in the monograms can be noted; ask for a selection.
Order as item #(SP 2058) \$45/£28**

FRANCE

Charles V of France inherited a broken kingdom. His father, John the Good, had been captured by Edward the Black Prince at Poitiers in 1356, and released only upon ceding authority over greater Aquitaine to the English king and promising three million ecus as ransom. The situation left the central government bankrupt and beholden to the nobles of France, who sought greater autonomy from the crown. Charles responded with firmness when he ascended the throne in 1364. The English were slowly pushed back from the possessions in France, and by 1380 held only several coastal cities such as Bordeaux, Cherbourg and Calais. Charles' marshal Bertrand du Guesclin defeated Navarre in 1364 and helped to curb the threat from the provincial nobility. His financial advisor Nicolas Oresme urged a strict fiscal policy and the rapidly depreciating currency was stabilized. Charles held France together at dangerous times when it might have disintegrated in the hands of a less capable ruler.



Charles V. 1364-1380. AV Franc à Pied. Charles standing within Gothic framework in field of lis, the king holds an upraised sword and mace / Cross fleur in quadrilobe; at the center of the cross; a pellet, cross or trefoil. Duplessy 360, 360A. Good VF. (ONLY FOUR AVAILABLE)
Order as item #(SP 2059) \$495/£310

ISLAMIC WORLD

"There is no God but Allah"

The unprecedented rapidity of the Islamic conquests caught everyone by surprise, their opponents - the Byzantines and Persians, as well as the Arabs themselves. After 660 AD the Umayyad caliphs found themselves rulers of a vast domain stretching from North Africa to the borders of India, without the experience in governing such a realm. One aspect that required resolution was the provision of coinage to the

new empire. Coins based on the Byzantine bronze follis and the Sasanian silver dirhem served for everyday use, but for large transactions the Byzantine gold solidus remained the standard.

This status quo stood until the 690's when the propaganda war between Christianity and Islam began heating up. Appalled and angered by the success of Islamic proselytizing, the Byzantine emperor Justinian II retaliated in 692 by replacing the simple cross on the solidus with a portrait of Christ and the legend "Jesus Christ, King of Kings". The prop of the Umayyad economy could no longer be accepted by the devout Muslim. Abd al Malik in 695 AD-AH 75 ordered a radical coinage reform, placing religious formulae on all his coins, gold, silver and bronze. The new gold dinar was struck at Damascus beginning in AH 77. Although dinars of the first year are extraordinarily rare and have brought upwards of \$100,000 at auction, later years are available in abundance as the Byzantine solidus was gradually replaced in circulation. With their simple but elegant calligraphy and good gold content, the early Umayyad dinars are always popular with collectors seeking an attractive and inexpensive example of a historic gold coin. The pieces we offer are all clean EF, dated AH 94 (712/713 AD), in the reign of al Malik's successor, al Walid.



UMMAYADS. Time of al Walid. AH 94 (712-713 AD). AV Dinar. Damascus mint. Obverse field: the Kalima - "There is no God but Allah, there is no one other with him". Obverse margin: "Mohammad is the prophet (messenger) of Allah, he was sent with guidance and the religion of truth to make it prevail over all others, averse though the idolaters may be". Reverse field: "Allah is one, Allah is eternal, He begets not and is begotten, nor is there anyone other like him". Reverse margin: "In the Name of Allah this dinar was struck in the year four and ninety". Album 127. EF, well struck.
Order as item #(SP 2060) \$295/£185

MONGOL TRIBES

"The Khan of Khans

The Just

The Most Mighty

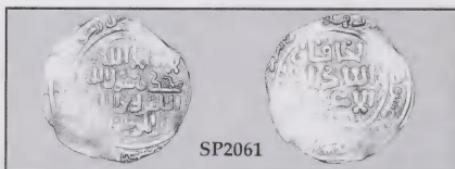
Genghis Khan"

Genghis Khan was born Temujin, eldest son of Yesugai, chief of the Borjigid clan of the Mongols. Yesugai was poisoned by a rival tribe, and his son spent his adolescence in the wilderness, spurned by all the warring clans. By force of will he rallied his father's scattered supporters, and one by one overcame all the other clan chiefs. In 1206 a meeting of all the Mongol tribes led to his proclamation as "Khan of Khans" and his new name Genghis Khan. His first conquests were of the northern Chinese states of the Tangut and the Jurchen, capturing the Jurchen capital of Chung-tu (Peking) in 1214. By this time the expansionist Mongol empire had come to the attention of the Muslim lands in the west.

The Khwarizmshah of Persia, Ala al-Din Muhammad, sent an embassy to the court of the Great Khan, offering peaceful relationships and trade. Genghis Khan replied in kind, sending the Persian representatives home with gifts and a further mission of Mongol nobles. In what was surely one of the most wrong-headed schemes in history, the Persian governor of the border town of Otrar seized the Mongol embassy, stole their possessions, and had them murdered. In 1219 the enraged Mongols destroyed Otrar, and upon realizing that the Persians did not have any effective forces to oppose them, went on to conquer the entire empire. Ala al Din died on the shores of the Caspian Sea in 1220, and the Mongols continued westward, overcoming in turn the defenses of the Russian principalities and the mounted knights of the kingdoms of Hungary and Poland. Only a dispute between Mongol commanders saved Germany and the rest of Europe from invasion. It could be said that Inalchuq, the hapless governor of an insignificant Iranian border town, almost caused the destruction of western civilization!

The extraordinarily rare dinars of Ghazna, the

only gold coins struck in the name of the great Khan, Genghis Khan, which indicate the mint and date, were struck at the last citadel held by the Khwarizmshahs, where Ala al-Din's son, Jalal al Din, attempted to rally his beaten army. After a few initial successes, Jalal al Din's forces were overwhelmed by an army led by Genghis Khan himself in 1222. The Mongol leader was impressed by Jalal al Din's bravery and after destroying the Persian army allowed Jalal to flee to India, from where he continued to strike out at Mongol territory until his death in 1231. Upon the fall of Ghazna the occupants were divided into artisans and regular citizens, the former to be employed by the conquerors, the latter to be put to death. These gold coins were probably struck by Genghis Khan's direct order to mark the final defeat of Persian arms and the collapse of the empire.



Mongols. Genghis Khan. Died 1227 AD. AV Dinar. Struck at Ghazna mint, AH 618 (1221/1222 AD). Reverse field in four lines - "The Khan of Khans, the Just, the Most Mighty Genghis Khan"; marginal legend - "Struck at Ghazna in the year eight and ten and six hundred". Cf. Album 1964. These dinars grade VF, but are normally very crudely struck, causing significant portions of the legends to be missing. Under fifteen available from our original group of fifty-nine.

Order as item # (SP 2061)

\$1600/£1000

ITALY

The House of Savoy

The province of Savoy, located on the border between France and Italy, held great strategic value in the Middle Ages. Its counts, if strong enough, could control traffic over the Alps between the two countries. By carefully arranged marriages, the family acquired connections with most of its more powerful neighbors, and often served the role as negotiators

between rival camps. Amedeus VIII was elevated to a Duke in 1416. Carlo II became Duke at the age of 17 in 1504, but proved unable to resist French and Swiss encroachments on his territory. He died in 1553 to be succeeded by his son Emmanuel Filiberto, "Ironhead". Emmanuel served with distinction in the armies of Charles V of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor, and was governor-general of the Lowlands when his father died. Emmanuel spent little time in his province, traveling as ambassador for the Emperor to many states in Europe. Nonetheless, his position of influence in the imperial court served to greatly strengthen Savoy's role in Italian politics, and his descendant Victor Emmanuel II became king of an united Italy in 1861.



Carlo II. 1504-1553. AR Grosso. Arms of Savoy / Cross of St. Maurice. Several varieties, undated and with dates 1552 and 1553. Average VF.
Order as item #(SP 2062) \$65/£40



Emmanuel Filiberto, "Ironhead". 1553-1580. AR Grosso. Arms of Savoy / Cross of St. Maurice. Several varieties, with dates 1555 to 1558. Average VF.
Order as item #(SP 2063) \$65/£40



Emmanuel Filiberto, "Ironhead". 1553-1580. AR Grosso. Arms of Savoy / Cross of St. Maurice, new legend: AVXILIVM MEVM A DOMINO. Several varieties, with dates 1559 to 1561. Average VF.

Order as item #(SP 2064) \$65/£40



Emmanuel Filiberto, "Ironhead". 1553-1580. AR Soldo. Arms of Savoy over Sassonia, Chiavalese and Aosta / Cross of St. Maurice. Several varieties, with most dates between 1564 and 1579 represented. Average VF.

Order as item #(SP 2065) \$45/£38

Sicily

The weakness of Beneventum and the remaining Byzantine enclaves in the south laid open southern Italy and Sicily to invasion. Sicily was conquered first by the Muslims of North Africa, then in the 11th century by the Normans. Although the Norman invasion of England is most prominently featured in the history books, the nobles of Normandy also propelled themselves to glory in the Mediterranean. They first arrived in Salerno on Sicily and by 1071 the brothers Robert and Roger Guiscard had captured the last Byzantine stronghold of Bari. The following year Roger became the first count of Sicily, his son Roger II claiming the title of king in 1130. By this time the Normans had extensive holdings in Italy and Greece, in 1149 even sending a fleet against Constantinople. William II intended to marry Maria Comnenus, but the plans were never finalized. In 1185 he invaded the empire, ostensibly in support of a pretender to the throne, but really to seize Constantinople for himself. He reached Thessalonica, destroying that city before being pushed back. The last Norman king of Sicily, William III was deposed by Henry VI of Naples in 1194.



SP2066



Normans in Sicily. William II. 1166-1189. AE Follero. Facing head of lion / Kufic inscription - "King William the Second". Spahr 118. VF. Order as item #(SP 2066) \$32/£20

Venice The Serene Republic

Venice, its lagoon originally a shelter for bandits and refugees, grew into a wealthy trading powerhouse that dominated Mediterranean trade routes and meddled freely in the affairs of every state it would come into contact with over the centuries. Its system of elected dukes or doges provided a stable government for centuries, while others endured civil war and invasions. Venice's wealth bought it immunity from the troubles of the times, either by the employ of mercenary captains or the use of generous bribes. While Venice was instrumental in defending Europe against Arab and Turkish onslaughts, it was also not averse to disrupting its Christian rivals, turning the Fourth Crusade away from its goal of defending the Holy Land to overthrow the Byzantine emperor at Constantinople in 1204.

Venice's gold ducat and silver grosso were reliable monies of account known everywhere, accepted by every trading nation (sometimes to the exclusion of its own coinage!), and copied as far away as India. From a recent purchase, we can offer attractively toned, EF silver grossi of two 14th century Venetian doges, Francesco Dandolo and Andrea Dandolo. One little recognized feature of these grossi: although the types would remain unchanged for decades, each separate issue would be distinguished by secret marks, usually symbols found somewhere on the throne of Christ on the obverse. For some rulers up to twenty different marks are known. A little unexplored pathway for the collector!



SP2067



Venice. Francesco Dandolo. 1328-1339. AR Grosso. Enthroned figure of Christ / The Doge and the patron saint of Venice, St. Mark, holding a banner between them. Scarfea 73. Toned EF. Order as item #(SP 2067) \$95/£60



SP2068



Venice. Andrea Dandolo. 1342-1354. AR Grosso. Enthroned figure of Christ / The Doge and the patron saint of Venice, St. Mark, holding a banner between them. Scarfea 85. Toned EF. Scarce.

Order as item #(SP 2068) \$95/£60

THE NEW WORLD

The Americas

The First Coinage of the New World

Almost immediately after the Spanish conquest of Mexico in 1522, the conquistadors and the merchants that followed in their footsteps realized that further exploitation of the economic potential of their colony would require a readily available circulating currency. A request for a mint was finally granted by Charles I in 1535, with minting beginning the next year. The mint in Mexico City was the first European mint in the Americas.

Unlike the later crude "cob" coinage, which was essentially an easily transported form of bullion, the first coinage of Mexico was carefully struck to the highest standards of the day. Silver coinage was minted in the denominations of 4, 3, 2, 1, 1/2 and 1/4 reales. A gold coinage is recorded, but there are not any surviving examples. Copper maravedis were also

struck, but proved immensely unpopular. Public whippings were employed to force their circulation, to no avail; the natives still threw them away in the lakes.

These four reales, from the second series of coinage struck after 1542 in the name of Charles I and his mother, the mentally unstable Johanna "the Mad", are far superior to the normal examples seen, being sharply struck on good metal. We have only a very limited number available.



MEXICO. Carlos and Johanna. Circa 1542. AR 4 Reales. Juan Gutiérrez, assayer. CAROLVS ET IOHANA REGES, arms of Castile and Leon; mintmark and assayer's initial / +HIS-PANIARVM ET INDIARVM, towers of Gibraltar with PLVS VLTRA and denomination. KM Mexico 18. EF, with an unusually sharp strike.

Order as item #(SP 2069) \$595/£375

BRITISH COINAGE

The history of British coinage is long and varied. The first coins came to Britain from the Gallo-Belgic tribes in the 2nd-1st centuries BC. These circulated throughout south and east England. Julius Caesar's expeditions to England brought the Celts into direct contact with Rome. By this time most of the local tribes were striking their own coinage.

When Rome conquered Britain, her coinage became that of the Roman Empire. The first British Empire was founded by Carausius in 287 AD. From about 287 until 326 AD a Roman mint was present in Britain. The Roman government withdrew in the fifth century and with

its withdrawal, the source for newly minted coins disappeared. Circulating coins were mutilated and heavily clipped. In the late sixth century, as the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms developed, a new coinage—the Sceatta—became the standard denomination. By the mid 700's a new type of coin developed simultaneously in England and France.

A broad, good silver penny became the Saxon and early Norman coin. Even the Viking invaders of the ninth century used this denomination. By the mid 1200's, some five hundred years after its introduction, the penny had fallen on hard times. Simultaneous to the development of the gros tournois in France under Louis IX and Philip IV, we see the introduction of the English groat. The groat was the last of the great medieval designs.

Under the Tudors realistic portraits replaced the standardized medieval representations. This renaissance in British coin design was a little behind its Italian neighbors. Milled coinage became a permanent fixture under Charles II in 1662. Again, England was a hundred years behind in her coining techniques.

There are many useful books on British coins. We have listed a few below. See the booklist for more.

Seaby. Coins of England and the United Kingdom. 1997 Edition. Hardbound. 300+ pages. Fully illustrated. Listing of all the major coin types of Britain from Celtic to modern times. Includes the latest update on Treasure Trove law. The standard reference.

Order as item #(E156) \$24.95

THE GALlic WAR

The Caesarean Invasions of 55-54 BC

By the 2nd century BC many Celtic tribes had branches on both sides of the English Channel. The Atrebates, Trinovantes and Catuvellauni in Britain had extensive contacts with Continental tribes, such as the Ambiani and the Coriosolites. By 125 BC hoards of Continental gold staters begin to appear in Britain. The extent of this contact became of some concern

to Julius Caesar after his pacification of Gaul. He saw Britain as a potential source of trouble as long as it remained beyond Roman control. Thus in 55 BC he initiated the first Roman invasion of Britain. The campaigns of 55 and 54 found Caesar caught up in tribal rivalries as the Atrebates and Trinovantes allied themselves with Rome, while the Catuvellauni became the focus of native resistance. Caesar eventually gained the submission of the tribes of southern Britain, but the hit and run tactics of the British warriors and the savage storms of the English Channel cost him dearly. It would be another century before Roman troops again attempted a landing in Britain, but the landing of Caesar at Deal saw Britain enter the orbit of the Roman Empire and would be a turning point in British history.

The gold staters offered below are typical of the pieces that saw circulation on both sides of the English Channel, and which Caesar did not want to find financing revolt among the tribes of Gaul.



Celtic. Gallic War. Circa 60-55 BC. AV Stater. Blank / Disjointed horse right. Van Arsdell, *Celtic Coinage of Britain*, 54-56. Choice EF.

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GEORGE III

The "Tuppence" of 1797

England in the last quarter of the 18th century suffered from a drastic shortage of small change. The government did not feel obligated to provide enough coinage for everyday use, and the coppers in circulation consisted of extremely worn royal issues (some dating to the 1600's) and a fair percentage of underweight crude counterfeits. Matthew Boulton of Birmingham felt that it was his civic duty to press for the relief of the common man by championing a proper, full weight copper currency. By happenstance he also controlled an

important copper mine in Cornwall and possessed the machinery in Birmingham to out-produce the Tower mint, if he could get a government contract to do so. After ten years of lobbying he acquired his contract, and in 1797 produced the first British coinage struck from a steam powered press. His mechanization of the minting process allowed for the first truly standardized coinage. The twopence weighed exactly two ounces of copper (full intrinsic value) and five of them in a row measured exactly eight inches, without deviation. His mint could strike better coins at a rate faster than the royal mint could ever hope to achieve, and Boulton's private mint would continue to give the Royal mintmaster fits until 1810, when a new mint was finally put into operation (using Boulton's machinery).

Although to modern eyes the "tuppence" seems horribly cumbersome, the British people apparently applauded the arrival of a proper full weight circulating coinage. Some 40 tons of twopence were struck over the next two years, all dated 1797. The twopence of Matthew Boulton has always been popular as the largest copper coin struck in Britain, and these "paperweights" are most attractive when selected for a minimum of bagmarks and edge bumps, as these have.



George III. 1797. Æ Twopence. Laureate bust / Britannia seated left. Seaby 3776; KM 619. Good VF, with a minimum of edge bumps.

Order as item #(SP 2071)

\$45/£28

SCOTLAND

The Golden Age of Scotland

The reign of Alexander III (1249-1286) was a period of prosperity for Scotland. The Norse vacated the Hebrides and other islands they had held, uniting the Scottish lands. Alexander's daughter married Eric of Norway, establishing peace between the two enemies. Alexander himself had married the daughter of the English king Henry III, and relations with the kingdom to the south were peaceful, for the last significant period until the 18th century. Alexander died in a hunting accident in 1286, leaving as his only heir his granddaughter Margaret, the Maid of Norway. Margaret was espoused to the son of Edward I, but died in 1290. The resultant power vacuum led to civil war in Scotland between the Bruce and the Balliols, and the result was the subjugation of Scotland by Edward. The Scottish army was defeated in 1296 and the "Stone of Destiny", the traditional Scottish throne, was removed to London, not to be returned for 700 years (1996).

Alexander undertook a great coinage reform in 1280, replacing the rather crude issues of earlier years with a fine style penny based on the English long cross penny of Edward I. A network of mints struck this new coinage, the workshops being differentiated by the variable number of points on the stars and mullets placed around the reverse cross. The precise assignment of mints has as yet not been worked out.



SP2072



Alexander III. 1249-1286. AR New Style Penny. After 1280. +ALEXANDER DEI GRA, crowned head left, with sceptre / +REX SCOTORVM, long cross with stars and mullets in quarters; varying numbers of points to stars and mullets. Seaby 5052ff. Toned, nice VF.

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ANTIQUITY SPECIAL

The Civil War between Caesar and Pompey Roman lead slingshot bolts

One of the most fearsome auxiliary units of the Roman army was the corps of slingers. These "gunners" of antiquity, often from Crete, would range along the sidelines of a battle and subject the enemy to a deadly hail of lead bullets. A well trained slinger could pierce the heaviest armor worn by a soldier. Often the lead bolts used would be marked with a symbol marking the unit the slinger belonged to, or sometimes a short phrase, something as simple as "take that".

The most historically interesting pieces can be related to a specific war or even a known battle. The bolts offered below belonged to units fighting for Pompey the Great during his contest with Caesar, and are marked with his name. These pieces are probably from the site of the battle of Munda in Spain, where the sons of Pompey fought a last ditch effort against the Caesareans in 45 BC. The battlefield was littered with the arms and armor of the defeated, and artifacts such as these bolts have been harvested in the vicinity for centuries. An important historical artifact of the Roman Civil Wars.



A1001

ROME. Lead Slingshot Bolt. Circa 48-45 BC. Length about 50mm. CN MAG / IMP impressed on each side. Nice condition with clear legends and an even creamy patina. A few are distorted by impact (ouch!) but most apparently missed their intended targets. ONLY TEN AVAILABLE - not as nice as last time - nevertheless interesting and priced to sell.

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